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### Israel to build roads for settlement expansion

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's housing ministry has issued a tender to build roads in the new section of the Maale Adumim settlement in the West Bank, being expanded to 3,500 units, Israeli TV reported Thursday. The tender for the roads was issued shortly before Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris in an attempt to revive the stalled peace process, the report said. The Palestinians and the U.S. are opposed to the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Ms. Albright has urged a "timeout" in settlement-building. A housing ministry spokesman refused to confirm or deny the report, but said Maale Adumim was being expanded. "We are expanding Maale Adumim just as we are expanding all the other neighbourhoods in greater Jerusalem. This policy is supported by a national consensus," said Moshe Eilat.

# Jordan Times

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### Zarqa fire put down

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) on Friday extinguished a fire which broke out at a cloth factory in the Free Zone Area in Zarqa. CDD sources said the accident caused only material losses and no casualties were reported. CDD Director-General Deeh Maani ordered the formation of a committee to investigate the cause of the fire.

### Israel beefs up security in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli security forces deployed reinforcements throughout Jerusalem on Friday, after intelligence reports of a possible attack by Islamists against civilians, police said. Army and police units were stepped up in public places in the city and orders were given to be on alert at the entrances to Jerusalem, police said. Security services received information that a cell of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) was planning an attack on Israeli civilians in Jerusalem, police said, without revealing the nature of the attack.

### Palestinians drop attempt to downgrade Israeli credentials

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The Palestinians on Thursday abandoned an attempt to downgrade the credentials of the Israeli mission to the United Nations, citing positive moves in the peace process. The move came in the 185-nation U.N. General Assembly, where the Arab group had planned to introduce an amendment to the annual report of the U.N. Credentials Committee. The controversial draft amendment said that the Israeli delegation's credentials did not cover the Arab population in the Israeli-occupied territories.

### Turkish-Cypriots withdraw from peace talks

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has formally informed the United Nations of his decision to withdraw from U.N.-sponsored intercommunal talks for the divided island's reunification, the Turkish-Cypriot TAK news agency reported Friday. "The intercommunal talks came to an effective end" following a European Union decision to launch next year membership talks with Cyprus "internationally-recognized Greek-Cypriot government," TAK quoted Mr. Denktaş as saying.

### Turkish men, women finally to receive equal treatment — in adultery

ANKARA (AFP) — A Turkish parliamentary commission has approved a bill under which married men and women could be sentenced to up to two years in jail for adultery, newspapers reported Friday. Under the previous legislation, married women convicted of adultery could be given up to three-year jail terms, while men faced no imprisonment. To take effect, the new legislation must be approved by parliament's general assembly. "With this amendment, a major source of inequality between women and men is being prevented," said Islay Saygin, state minister for women's affairs. But several commentators criticized the new legislation, saying it was insufficient and that prison terms should altogether be abolished for adultery cases.

## Arafat accepts Albright's plan of further crackdown on Islamists

Netanyahu offers no guarantee; Cabinet will decide on West Bank troop pullout before Clinton meeting

Combined agency dispatches

AFTER SIGNING an agreement to crack down on Islamists Thursday, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat insisted Israel comply with the Oslo interim peace accords and begin West Bank troop withdrawals.

Speaking outside British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Downing Street office, Mr. Arafat blamed Israel for the current deadlock in the peace process. "In spite of the endeavours of [U.S.] Secretary of State [Madeleine] Albright and President [Bill] Clinton, unfortunately we are still suffering from an impasse because so far we have not witnessed a scrupulous, honest implementation of the agreements," said the Palestinian president.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat accused Israel Friday of using stalling tactics in implementing the Oslo agreement which calls for Israeli troops to withdraw from the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "playing delaying tactics," said Mr. Erakat on the sidelines of a meeting between Mr. Arafat and the EU presidency in Luxembourg.

He said Mr. Arafat had agreed in his meeting Thursday in London with Ms. Albright to a U.S. document on security and expressed surprise at Israeli statements that no such accord had been reached. "President Arafat handed

the paper to Albright saying that he accepted it and the Israelis came today with a statement that there is no such agreement which is really surprising," Mr. Erakat said.

He added that the Palestinians and Israelis had agreed to meet Monday to discuss implementation of the security accord.

"We stressed the point that we want a security agreement based on the Oslo agreement which specifies that we should fight violence or terror whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis or against Palestinians or Israelis," he said, adding that Mr. Netanyahu had refused the principle of reciprocity.

"Mr. Netanyahu cannot ask us why we release prisoners if he releases the Israeli killers of Palestinians which he is doing a lot," Mr. Erakat said.

An Israeli newspaper reported Friday that the new security agreement gives the United States the right to veto the release of suspected Islamist activists from Palestinian jails.

The Yediot Achronot daily said the agreement stipulates that the Palestinians will give the CIA advance notice of the names of detainees they plan to release.

The CIA will then inform Israel of impending releases, and Israel will be given an opportunity to voice objections. In the end, the PNA can only release detainees with U.S.

(Continued on page 7)

### Netanyahu adamant West Bank to remain part of 'Israel proper'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reaffirming his headline opposition to granting Palestinians more than limited self-rule, asserted Friday that the occupied West Bank would remain part of "Israel proper." Speaking to a meeting of journalists from the World Zionist Organisation, Mr. Netanyahu chided critics of his policies who "think of Judea and Samaria [the Jewish names for the West Bank] as some colony like Algeria or a possession in Africa. There is no body of water separating the West Bank from Israel proper. It is part of Israel proper," Mr. Netanyahu said. "It is our backyard. It is not foreign land to us." Mr. Netanyahu went on to assert that Arabs only settled in large numbers in the lands of Palestine after Jews began developing the area a century ago. "The Jewish reconstruction is the primary reason for the influx of Jews and Arabs, who are now called Palestinians, to this land," he said.

### Two-thirds of Israelis support evacuating W. Bank settlements

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two-thirds of Israelis favour evacuating Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for real peace with the Palestinians, according to a poll published Friday. In a peace agreement, Israel would have to hand more of the West Bank and Gaza to Palestinian control, including areas where Jewish settlements are located. A defence ministry proposal for a permanent peace agreement floated this week reportedly would keep 42 of 144 West Bank settlements out of areas under Israeli control. The survey was conducted by the Dahaf Institute and published in the Yediot Achronot newspaper. In one part, a representative sample of 511 Jewish adults was polled, and a second part contained answers from 478 settlers. The margin of error in both was 4 per cent.

### Husseini agrees with King on Palestinian 'capital in Jerusalem'

AMMAN (Petra) — A prominent Palestinian leader has voiced support for His Majesty King Hussein's views concerning the establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital to be located in Jerusalem.

Faisal Husseini who is in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority made the statement to the Jerusalem-based Arabic language daily Al Quds in which he cited recent remarks by King Hussein demanding that the Palestinian state should have its capital in Jerusalem proper.

(Continued on page 7)

## Doves win landslide victory in IAF Shura Council elections

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a surprise development, moderates and centrists won an overwhelming majority in this week's elections for the Shura Council of the influential Islamic Action Front (IAF), the higher decision-making body in the Kingdom's strongest opposition party.

The hawks obtained less than 20 per cent of the 120 seats, maintaining the same representation they had in the last council, election results issued last night showed. Well-placed IAF sources had earlier predicted that hard-liners would secure a landslide victory in the ballot, heightening tensions between the group and the government.

They had said the current crisis in Islamist-government relations, which culminated in the Islamists' boycott of last month's general elections, would result in a radicalisation

flood of the party.

But yesterday's results signalled that "the IAF's base is less politicised than we expected," an Islamist analyst said.

"Many voters, especially in rural areas, simply re-elected the leaders they already know," he added.

Another IAF source stressed that the conflict between hawks and doves exists mainly in the cities, like Salt, Zarqa and Amman, where the political debate is more intense and sophisticated.

"But the base in other regions is not even aware of the party's division between hawks and doves," he said.

The hawks, who believe the front should abide more strictly by the directives of its mother organisation, the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, retained their seats in Sweileh (eight seats, including former 12th Parliament Deputy Hammam Said and hard-line leader Mohammad Abu

Faris), but won only one seat in Zarqa and Ruseifeh, their two other traditional strongholds.

The doves, who advocate the party's total independence from the Brotherhood, won a cosy majority in the capital's three districts, and clinched all seven seats in Salt.

Centrist Emad Abu Diah, a leading figure in the front and also in the Muslim Brotherhood, surprisingly lost.

The newly-elected Shura Council is scheduled to elect a 13-member Executive Committee in its first session, on Dec. 26.

The Executive Committee will then elect a new secretary general, to succeed moderate Ishaq Farhan, who has already served at the party's head for two consecutive terms and is therefore not eligible, according to party regulations.

Former Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat, a dove, is tipped by many as Dr. Farhan's successor.

## Japan agrees to reschedule Jordan's \$65 million debt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan and Jordan agreed to reschedule Jordan's debts to Japan amounting to \$65 million. Notes to this effect were exchanged between H.E. Takayuki Kimura, ambassador of Japan to Jordan and H.E. Dr. Suleiman Hafez, Minister of Finance at the Ministry of Finance on Dec. 18, 1997.

The debt, which is due

between June 1997 and February 1999, with \$41 million official debt and \$24 million commercial debt, will be repaid by 2018 for official debt and 2016 for commercial debt under this rescheduling agreement. This is the 4th rescheduling of Jordanian debts to Japan, following similar rescheduling arrangements agreed in 1990, 1993 and 1995.

Mr. Kimura said after the signing: "We hope this rescheduling will help alleviate Jordan's burden of debt servicing and provide bases of increased inflow of external funds to Jordan." The Japanese government can now accelerate the new official development assistance loan to be provided to Jordan.

## Deputies' visit to Knesset draws criticism 'He is a man who abides by Islam and the people elected him as such'

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A visit by two members of Parliament to the Israeli Knesset on Thursday drew mixed reactions by the two deputies' colleagues and their constituents.

The strongest reactions were against Islamist

Deputy Mohammad Ra'fat who represents the Baqa'a refugee camp at the newly elected Lower House.

"As a deputy, I denounce this visit and fail to see the reasons behind it," fellow Islamist Deputy Mohammad Azaydeh told the Jordan Times Friday.

Mr. Azaydeh added he

sees this visit as a step towards normalisation of ties with Israel. He said he was surprised when he learned of Mr. Ra'fat's visit because "he is a man who abides by Islam and was elected by the people according to that."

(Continued on page 7)

## Aziz takes reporters on tour of Iraq's presidential palaces

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI DEPUTY Prime Minister Tareq Aziz took journalists on a tour of presidential palaces in Baghdad on Friday in a bid to prove they do not contain banned weapons of mass destruction.

"We would like you to see these palaces where a lot of mysteries have been fabricated, so that you can see for yourselves that these are normal presidential sites," Mr. Aziz said.

Iraq has categorically refused to allow inspectors from the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq access to so-called "presidential" sites, saying they are a symbol of national sovereignty.

On Thursday, the chief U.N. arms inspector told the Security Council that Iraq is expanding areas it has declared off-limits, but Washington appeared ready for the time being to seek only a joint statement demanding access to all sites.

U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson called the report by the Australian Chief Inspector Richard Butler "discouraging." Mr. Richardson said it showed that Iraq was scaling back cooperation with the United Nations.

But Russia's U.N. ambassador said Moscow still



Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz stands with reporters in front of an American missile at the main gate of Al Naser palace in Baghdad on Friday which hit the palace during the Gulf war. On the missile is written "Down with USA." Mr. Aziz again vowed that U.N. arms inspectors will never enter the buildings (AP Photo)

opposes using force for fear Baghdad would kick out all U.N. inspectors and refuse to allow long-term monitoring of Iraqi industries.

Mr. Butler briefed the 15-member council Thursday on his talks this week with Iraqi officials. He said the

rooms in intelligence or security services facilities.

After the briefing, Mr. Butler refused to discuss in detail what he told the council.

But in a written report submitted Wednesday, Mr. Butler said Iraqi officials insisted that they would not allow inspections of presidential and "sovereignty" sites "under any circumstances."

Mr. Butler said Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tareq Aziz, insisted Baghdad no longer had weapons of mass destruction. He offered to discuss differences over interpretation of scientific data already gathered by the inspectors but said they "would not volunteer any new information" about proscribed weapons.

Mr. Butler's report said: "There's been a step back, some retrenchment here," Mr. Richardson said. "We now have Iraq officially stating that some sites are off-limits. We are very concerned about these developments. We think they're negative elements."

Diplomats who attended the private meeting said members agreed Iraq must grant access to all sites, including the president's palaces. But the council remains deeply divided over how to respond.

Russian Ambassador

(Continued on page 7)

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## Jordan Times

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## A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a dark interior space, possibly a tunnel or a large room with a vaulted ceiling. A person is visible in the foreground on the left, and another figure is standing further back on the right. The floor is covered with debris or rubble.

The previous Israeli government appeared willing to allow a Palestinian state in most of the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Netanyahu has softened his stance and his cabinet is debating alternative peace offers — but the most generous would still retain half the West Bank for Israel. He also still opposes Palestinian statehood and any compromise over Jerusalem.

mid-March, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang said.

Mr. Tang said China is concerned about the current stalemate and seeks greater international efforts to help re-start it.

The final leg of the journey, from Dec. 28 to Jan. 1, will take Mr. Qian to South Africa, where he is due to sign a joint communiqué establishing diplomatic relations between Beijing and Pretoria.

South Africa has long maintained ties with rival Taiwan, ruling out any formal relationship with mainland China, which views the nationalist island as a renegade province.

Accompanying Mr. Qian on the trip are his wife, Zhou Hangjing, and Assistant Foreign Minister Ji Peidun.

**CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS:** Palestinian Christians on Friday prepare Christmas decorations under an arched walkway surrounding a courtyard of the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ. The Church of the Nativity in Manger Square is one of the most popular Christian holy sites, especially during the holiday season (Reuters photo)

hipment for locally grown hashish as well as transit for other drugs destined to Europe. Lebanon was rewarded last month when President Bill Clinton announced he was removing the country from a U.S. list of major drug-

00	Dubai (EA)
35	Cairo (MS)
55	Damascus, Paris (AF)
35	Amsterdam (KL)
00	Athens (AZ)
20	Rome (QA)
15	Beirut (ME)
	Royal Wings (RW)

UNU, UJI — The Queen's University International Leadership Academy (QULA) Committee, headed by Her Majesty the Queen, met last week in New York to discuss the QULA programme and its proposals for its expansion, according to its press release.

The committee decided to expand the programme to six sessions, a three-day programme in July, at which outstanding young people would qualify for a six-week advanced leadership programme in spring 1988, the statement said.

Queen Nor spoke of the changing and dynamic nature of ILA participants who have formed an association, the International Leadership Academy, and have initiated special Leadership Conferences the first of which she held in Pakistan in January 1988.

The Queen emphasised the importance of tapping available resources, pool of former participants for her programmes. Japanese Ambassador to the U.K. Hisashi Owada and Secretary Hans Van den Broek mentioned the significance of enhancing the character of the Academy as an innovative learning forum for leaders, that is paved with mutual interaction, dialogue and reflects concern while balancing global, Middle East and developing countries' interests, the statement added.

QULA is the first global leadership training facility as well as the first U.N. programme to be initiated and established in the Middle East. It seeks to provide young people with leadership skills and attitudes while fostering commitment to sustainable development, sustainable democracy, civil society, humanism, and reconciliation of disputes, the statement said.

Queen Nor also spoke at the 1987-88 "Week of Peace" on September 21, 1987, and

**PRINCESS** OPENS To mark  
the Majesty King Hus-  
sein's 62nd birthday,  
Princess Alia Thurs-  
day inaugurates the Sec-  
ond Children's Handi-  
crafts Exhibition at Haya  
Centre. The Princess  
presented awards to win-  
ners in the competition.  
She drew a total of 200  
pictures drawn by school-  
children from various  
schools. The exhibition  
was attended by Minister  
of Social Development  
Muhammad  
Khalaf and the Japanese  
Ambassador to Jordan  
Masayuki Kimura. (Petra  
10/1)

WHAT'S  
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**CONCERT**  
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mpare the Family  
ural Centre at 8:00

**EXHIBITIONS**  
Paintings by Samia  
at Amman Book-  
p. Jabal Amman,  
rd Circle. until Dec.

Works by Ghada

Dahdaleh  
Art Gallery  
Street (Tel)  
until Dec. 2  
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Edgardo  
entitled "Ar-  
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## Queen attends UNU, Mentor board meetings in New York

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations University Leadership Academy's (UNU/LA) Advisory Committee, chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor, met last week in New York to discuss the 1998 ILA programme and review proposals for its development, according to a press release.

The committee decided to expand the programme to two sessions, a three-week programme in July, from which outstanding participants would qualify for a six-week advanced leadership programme in the spring 1999, the statement said.

Queen Noor spoke of the encouraging and dynamic initiative of ILA participants, who have formed an alumni association, the International Leadership Forum, and have initiated Regional Leadership Conferences, the first of which will be held in Pakistan in February 1998.

The Queen emphasised the importance of tapping the valuable resources pool of former participants for future programmes. Japanese Ambassador to the U.N. Hisashi Owada and UNU rector Hans Van Ginkel reiterated the significance of enhancing the unique character of the academy as an innovative global learning forum for future leaders that is based on meaningful interaction and dialogue and reflects U.N. concerns while balancing global, Middle East and developing countries' perspectives, the statement continued.

The ILA is the first global leadership training facility as well as the first U.N. institution to be initiated and established in the Middle East. It seeks to provide training in leadership skills and attitudes while fostering commitment to sustainable development, sustainable democracy, civil society institutions, and peaceful resolution of disputes, the statement said.

Queen Noor also spoke at a "Seeds of Peace" recep-

tion and fund-raising dinner held at Sotheby's Tuesday evening and met four "Seeds of Peace" participants from Egypt, Palestine, and Israel, as well as Jordan's Shouq Tarawneh.

In her remarks, the Queen noted this year's coincidence of important Jewish and Christian holidays and the holy month of Ramadan, which celebrate miracles of light, hope and faith, and the revelation of the Holy Koran, and highlighted the common values of reconciliation, peace, family, and community, the announcement continued.

"Seeds of Peace," now in its sixth year, has graduated over 600 young people from Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Morocco, Tunisia, and Qatar, who attend a summer programme in the U.S. designed to promote dialogue, understanding, and cooperation and to build a commitment for peace. Participants, who stay in touch regularly via e-mail, are now publishing a bimonthly newsletter, the Olive Branch, which is printed in Ramallah and used in classrooms throughout the region, the statement continued.

Previously, Queen Noor joined Queen Sylvia of Sweden, Prince Henri of Luxembourg, and other members of the Mentor Foundation's Board of Trustees for their bi-annual meeting.

Mentor is an independent private foundation launched in May 1994 to support preventive measures against youth substance abuse. The Board meeting included several expert presentations on substance abuse, including a speech on working with children in need by Betty Williams, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and president of the World Centres of Compassion, and a presentation by Joseph Califano, former U.S. secretary of health, education, and welfare, on the National Centre on Addiction and Substance Abuse at

Columbia University.

The centre has recently become Mentor's partner in Mentor-START, a New York community-based programme to support and help prevent drug abuse among "high-risk" youth living in poor urban neighbourhoods. The project is being implemented at a youth support centre and local public school in Brooklyn, which Queen Noor, Prince Henri, and other board members later visited, the statement said.

Funds for Mentor's New York and international programmes, designed to support and educate homeless and disenfranchised young parents and their children, were raised at a gala dinner Monday night at Sotheby's.

Queen Noor, who spoke at the dinner on behalf of Mentor, noted "it is children, especially the disadvantaged, so often lacking in information and adult support, who are particularly vulnerable" to the danger of substance abuse.

"Drug abuse is a less pressing problem in Jordan thanks to our traditional Islamic and family-based social structure. However, our location, both geographic and historical, at the junction of ancient trade routes from east to west and north to south, has exposed us to the dangers of the international drug trade and heightened our awareness of a significant regional problem," she added.

Allied with the World Health Organisation, other U.N. agencies, and local organisations throughout the world, the Mentor Foundation "helps the belpers" implement innovative, preventive, programmes and develop creative, culturally-sensitive strategies for prevention, evaluation, dissemination and training. To date, Mentor has initiated and sponsored substance abuse prevention initiatives in over 40 countries, the press release concluded.

## Communists blast Netanyahu, government policies

### Naffa'a expected to be elected party chief

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The once-banned Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) has criticised the government for repressing public freedoms and democracy to forge ahead with its controversial 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

At the end of its second public national congress since it was legalised in 1993, the JCP also reiterated its opposition to normalisation of ties with the Jewish state and blasted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line policies.

The party's newly-elected executive council was expected to elect politburo member Emili Naffa'a as JCP chief in a ballot late on Friday, party source said.

If elected, Ms. Naffa'a, a leading women's rights activist, will become the first woman to head a Jordanian political party.

In the keynote address to

the three-day meeting, JCP Secretary General Yacoub Zayadine said "anxiety in Jordan had increased after the Kingdom signed the [1994] peace treaty with Israel, which played a key role in lowering the ceiling of democracy in Jordan."

The treaty has divided many disenchanted Jordanians who still see Israel as their enemy after years of conflict. "Indications of political stagnation are multiplying after increased tension between parties and political forces on one hand and the authorities on the other hand," Dr. Zayadine added.

"As the official policy was giving priority to the treaty's dividends, normalisation steps with Israel came at the expense of antagonising Arab relations," he said.

"Popular opposition was growing across the country for various reasons; the aggressive U.S.-backed Israeli attitude that opposes just peace agreements and the

evaporation of all promises of economic prosperity that came with the announcement of the treaty."

Dr. Zayadine, who studied medicine in the former East Germany, also criticised the government's socio-economic policies including the lifting of bread subsidies in 1996, which he said had widened the gap between the rich and the poor.

The lively debate at the convention — held at a state-owned building and attended by 400 members and delegations from various Arab and international Communist parties — contrasted sharply with the JCP's decades of underground operation.

Because of its Marxist ideology, the JCP was barred since the establishment of modern Jordan in 1946 and Zayadine himself spent many years in jail while other leaders were driven into exile.

However, it was allowed to operate legally five years ago after Jordan lifted a 1957 ban

on all political groups following His Majesty King Hussein's decision to launch freedoms and democracy in 1989.

Many opposition parties have been at loggerheads with the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali for what they say is a crackdown on public freedoms and democracy.

Unlike many opposition parties in the Islamist-led coalition that decided to boycott the Nov. 4 general elections, the JCP fielded two official candidates, who had no luck in the vote.

However, Mohammad Batayneh, a JCP member who ran as an independent, won a seat in the 80-member Lower House.

"The lowering of the democratic ceiling was evident in a number of measures, including maintaining the one-person, one-vote electoral system and curbing freedom of expression and the press by introducing a temporary law

that led to the closure of 13 weeklies," Dr. Zayadine said.

"It did not stop there...the national parties were also exposed to a tough campaign and received threats in various forms, while the professional unions are facing threats. The screws were tightened on a lot of national activities by banning them under different pretexts."

The JCP congress also expressed "serious fears" that three draft laws on elections, political parties, and professional associations will jeopardise constitutional freedoms in the country. The government will soon submit the three draft laws to Parliament.

Sixteen delegations from communist and leftist parties in Russia, China, Japan, Greece, Canada, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, and Palestine took part in the congress' opening session on Wednesday.

## Revised elections, unions laws to be submitted to Lower House — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Friday said his government will revise the Elections Law, as well as the laws on the professional unions and associations, in order to make them consistent with the ongoing changes in the world.

Dr. Majali stated that the government will present the revised laws to the Lower House for discussion and approval in preparation for their ratification as laws.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates Arabic daily Al Bayan, Dr. Majali stressed his government's desire to foster democratic practices and encourage political pluralism.

Responding to a question about his government's position on the opposition, Dr. Majali said opposition is a healthy phenomenon, describing it as contributing to the government's policies.

When asked about Jordanian-Israeli relations, he replied that the government will not enhance those relations at the expense of its Arab brethren but rather will utilise its relations with Israel to serve Arab interests in many respects.

He stressed that relations with Israel are governed by treaties and agreements concluded between both countries.

On the problems of bloated administration, poverty, and unemployment, Dr. Majali said the government has embarked on a series of well-studied practical measures to reduce the size of the government and has adopted a social security package designed to reduce poverty to acceptable levels.

Regarding unemployment, the prime minister expressed doubts as to whether it was a real problem, noting in this

regard that there are 300,000 non-Jordanian workers in Jordan.

A study will be conducted to determine the magnitude of this problem and work out the necessary solutions, which will be based on clear and solid scientific bases, he said.

Dr. Majali said the culture of shame in Jordanian society plays a major role in aggravating unemployment, but his government is seeking to end this phenomenon through educational, social, and information programmes.

On Jordanian-Iraqi economic relations following Baghdad's execution of four Jordanians, Dr. Majali said the situation has been over-exaggerated by the press.

He added that he did not expect economic relations to suffer as a result of that incident, which Jordan has condemned, and stressed that relations among governments

are bound by treaties and agreements, and as such should not suffer as a result of any isolated incident.

On Jordan's oil imports from Iraq, he said Iraqi officials have made it clear that the latest incident has nothing to do with the agreement to supply Jordan with oil. The Kingdom has a strategy to deal with such issues, irrespective of their scale, and always has various alternatives, he added.

When asked if the incident will have an impact on Jordanian students in Iraq, Dr. Majali replied that he believed it will not affect them.

"Just as there are Jordanian students in Iraq, tens of thousands of Iraqis are living amidst their kinsmen here in Jordan and are receiving our love and appreciation," he stated.

On the Kingdom's relations

with Syria, the prime minister said they are good, noting that His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan are in continuous contact with the Syrian leadership. He said the Joint Higher Jordanian-Syrian Committee will convene when Syria confirms the meeting.

On the peace process, Dr. Majali said peace is not an easy and short process that starts and ends in a matter of days or weeks, nor is it a strategy that is altered by a change in the persons involved.

"Peace is an irrevocable international strategy, which might be impeded by one party or the other," the prime minister said. He added that the Israeli people believe in and want peace, but the Israeli government is trying to obstruct the peace process.

PRINCESS OPENS EXHIBITION: To mark His Majesty King Hussein's 62nd birthday, HRH Princess Alia Thursday inaugurates the Second Children's Handicrafts Exhibition at Haya Art Centre. The Princess presented awards to winners in the competition, which drew a total of 200 entries drawn by school-children from various schools. The exhibition was attended by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mamsar and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura (Petra photo)



## Workshop ends with recommendation for women's quota in Parliament

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Women activists have recommended that the government allocate 20 per cent of seats in the next Parliament to women following their defeat in the Nov. 4 general elections, which produced an all-male Lower House.

The idea of introducing a parliamentary quota for women, like the one enjoyed by Jordan's Christian and Circassian minorities, was one of several recommendations issued Thursday at the end of a three-day workshop that examined the results of last month's elections.

The list of recommenda-

tions were sent to the newly re-organised Jordanian National Committee for Women, chaired by HRH Princess Basma, to ensure their implementation.

All 17 women candidates, including former deputy Toujan Faisal, Jordan's first and only woman member in the Parliament, failed to clinch a seat in the 13th Parliament.

The participants urged the government to reconsider the current one-person, one-vote system, blaming it for the failure of women to reach the 80-seat Lower House.

Tribalism, legal and social discrimination against women, and lack of funds were cited as other

constraints impeding women's full participation in the country's political life in a male-dominated society.

They also called on the government to adopt the national identity card as a voting document and demanded special voting arrangements for the illiterate to guard against possible election irregularities.

Many of the women candidates who ran against 600 men in the race, including Mrs. Faisal, blamed their failure on vote rigging and election irregularities, a charge denied by the government.

Participants at the workshop, organised by the Princess Basma Women's Research Centre

(PBWRC), also recommended that the voting age be reduced to 18 from 19, the number of seats in Parliament be increased, and districts be redistributed to ensure better representation.

They also demanded the right to vote for all eligible Jordanians living abroad. The over 200 participants said more women should be encouraged to join civil institutions and political parties and to be appointed to senior government and judicial posts.

They also suggested a media campaign to educate men and women to change "perceptions and behavioural patterns of society at all levels" towards women.

## Markets announce preparations for Holy Month of Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — In view of the coming holy month of Ramadan, the Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC), which sells goods at reduced prices to government officials and their dependants, has made arrangements to ensure that its 35 markets around the country will be able to meet the projected needs during the month, according to Acting CSCC Director Ahmad Kreishan.

In a statement released Friday, Mr. Kreishan said the demand for foodstuffs and other requirements for the month-ending Eid Al Fitr usually increases in Ramadan.

CSCC management has guaranteed that its markets will be able to provide the various requirements of consumers, including clothing, electric appliances, foodstuffs, and other items, he added.

The CSCC is also making arrangements for the three main markets, located in the northern, central, and southern parts of the country, to

expand their services by selling fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry starting next year, he said.

To date, these markets and others did not have sections for selling vegetables and meat, but if this trial experiment proves successful, the CSCC will universalise the idea, Mr. Kreishan said.

CSCC markets currently carry 2,500 items in-stock, all of which undergo laboratory tests at the ministries of industry and trade and health, as well as the Royal Scientific Society, to ensure their fitness for human consumption or use, he stated.

Plans for the future development of the markets include expanding services and installing a central computer system, Mr. Kreishan added.

The corporation's management is now making arrangements to extend markets hours until eight in the evening to accommodate the schedules of government employees, he said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* German film "Zwischen den Jahren" (Between the Years) at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman at 4:30 p.m.

### CONCERT

\* Musical performance by the International Family Troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Paintings by Samia Zaru at Amman Bookshop, Jabal Amman, Third Circle, until Dec. 24.

\* Works by Gbada

Dahdaleh at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Dec. 20.

\* Photo exhibition by Edgardo Rodriguez entitled "Arab Presence in Cuban Architecture" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Dec. 20.

\* Exhibition of prints by Algerian artist Rashid Koraishi and calligraphy by Iraqi artist Hassan Massoudi, inspired by the poems of Mahmoud Darwish, at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Dec. 31. Also displaying paintings by Jordanian artist Nasr Abdul Aziz, and works by contemporary Arab artists.



## Kim Dae-Jung seals election win with pledge to save South Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — Former dissident Kim Dae-Jung sealed his presidential election victory with pledges to work with the IMF to dig South Korea out of its financial crisis and to improve ties with North Korea.

But the immediate worry in Seoul was a possible power vacuum in the two months before he takes over from the highly unpopular President Kim Young Sam.

With Kim Dae-Jung not formally taking power until Feb. 25 and the financial crisis still far from resolved, the concern is that central policy could lurch out of control in the "limbo" period.

Some of the nervousness was dissipated by the announcement that Mr. Kim would meet Saturday with the president to discuss the \$60 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) rescue package, the possible amnesty of two jailed former presidents and transition policies.

U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned Mr. Kim to congratulate him, as did Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who called him "an exceptional leader."

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said he was looking forward to meeting Mr. Kim "face-to-face."

Only North Korea was silent on Mr. Kim's victory, with the official Korean Central News Agency concentrating on agricultural workers' performance and an Indian embassy official's visit to the tomb of its former leader Kim Il-Sung.

Hours after the ruling party conceded defeat in the tight presidential race, and while his supporters were still on an orgy of celebrations, Mr. Kim, 73, was in parliament delivering his maiden policy statement to journalists.

The same riot police, who used to arrest him, formed a protective ring around his house before he left, and an envoy from President Kim Young Sam invited him to the presidential Blue House for a working lunch Saturday.

"I state with the utmost clarity and emphasis: we will cooperate with the IMF fully and completely," Mr. Kim said, but added that he would also hold "additional" talks with the Fund to try to minimise the pain of

insolvencies and layoffs.

On rival North Korea, which only two days ago he had accused of meddling in the polls, he said he would seek to revive a 1992 accord, exchange envoys, and hold a summit meeting "if need be."

Mr. Kim, condemned as pro-Communist by the former South Korean military dictators who persecuted him, pledged to continue with four-party peace talks which got underway in Geneva earlier in the month.

Pyongyang ignored the statement. A Chinese foreign ministry statement predicted Mr. Kim's victory would see a strengthening of ties and more efforts "for continuing progress in the four-party peace talks."

Thwarted in three previous attempts at the presidency, his decades of political struggle were ended when Lee Hoi-Chang, his rival candidate of the majority Grand National Party (GNP), conceded defeat.

"I solemnly accept the will of the people," Mr. Lee said in a statement read by a GNP spokesman on national television.

But the close outcome of the poll — 40.3 per

cent for Mr. Kim and 38.7 per cent for Mr. Lee — and doubts about Mr. Kim's policies to cope with the crippling financial crisis, left many South Koreans palpably nervous.

The stock market wobbled anxiously and closed 5.2 per cent down, pressured also by the sliding won.

But among Kim Dae-Jung's supporters there were tears of joy, and no doubts. Overnight hundreds of supporters mobbed Mr. Kim's home shouting "Kim Dae-Jung! Kim Dae-Jung!" and popping champagne corks.

In his opposition bastion, the southwestern city of Kwangju with its bitter memories of hundreds of dead in a 1980 pro-democracy uprising, thousands of people danced in the streets.

And the island of Haei, where he was born, resounded to the deafening beat of traditional gongs and cymbals, television showed.

Mr. Kim, who suffered years of imprisonment under past military regimes, some of them on death row before a sudden reprieve and exile, did not join in the celebrations.



South Korean president elect Kim Dae-Jung and his wife Lee Hee-Ho hold a document which officially confirms his election victory in Seoul (Reuters photo)

## Sam Rainsy brokers in-principle ceasefire amid fresh Cambodian fighting

BANGKOK (AFP) — Fighting flared again in northern Cambodia Friday even as leading Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy announced the warring factions had agreed in-principle to a ceasefire.

Speaking after a day of negotiations with top FUNCINPEC generals near the Thai border, Mr. Rainsy told AFP he was close to finalising a peace pact between forces loyal to ousted First Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh and government troops of strongman Hun Sen.

"The principle has been agreed to already but I'm working on the modalities and I think I will be in a position to elaborate tomorrow," Mr. Rainsy said.

"It's too premature to elaborate now but it will be very encouraging news," Fighting continued for the fifth successive day Friday for control of the hamlet of O'Smach near Cambodia's northern border with Thailand, the main stronghold of the royalist resistance. Thai military

sources said. Heavy shelling was reported in the early morning and fighting continued with intermittent shelling throughout the day.

Thai military fired warning shots in the direction of the government troops on two occasions after shells fell in Thai territory.

Seven royalist FUNCINPEC soldiers wounded in the fighting were being treated at Thailand's Kap Choeng district hospital and there were unconfirmed reports of larger numbers of casualties on both sides.

Mr. Rainsy headed to the border from Bangkok Thursday night with a peace plan from Hun Sen which he hinted had won the approval of Thailand.

The Khmer Nation Party leader who recently returned to Phnom Penh after about six months of exile said he met with FUNCINPEC's general Nhek Bun Chhay Friday following meetings with other royalist generals Thursday night.

He said he believed the royalists were still holding their positions at O'Smach. Asked why the fighting seemed to be escalating even as a peace plan was being brokered, Mr. Rainsy said the warring parties were trying to grab as much territory before the ceasefire was announced.

"The armies want to gain ground before the ceasefire, so that's not a contradiction," he said.

FUNCINPEC troops have been dug in at their hilltop stronghold since August, after forces loyal to Hun Sen chased the royalists out of Phnom Penh after street-fighting that led to the ouster of Prince Ranariddh, who remains in exile.

The fighting was most intense in August but died down during the wet season with Hun Sen's men blocked by thick minefields. Fighting resumed earlier this week after reinforcements, including tanks, reached the government troops' frontlines.

## Hindu nationalists vow to sweep Indian polls, forge more alliances

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's powerful Hindu nationalists Friday said they would forge more alliances with regional parties following a "significant" tie-up and sweep to power in parliamentary polls early next year.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Indian People's Party, which ruled India for just 13 days in 1996, said the February-March elections would turn the bloc into "the author of an altogether new chapter in Indian politics."

Party President Lal Krishna Advani told a crucial meeting of the BJP top brass in the eastern city of Bhubaneswar that Hindu nationalists would expand their power base to the east and south of the country.

"The BJP will not only open its account in eastern and southern states (with the help of regional parties) but could even pull off big surprises," the Press Trust of India quoted him as saying.

Wednesday, the BJP, whose bastion is the northern Hindi-speaking heartland, pulled off a major coup when it announced a sudden tie-up with a Tamil regional party called AIADMK in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

The AIADMK, which for years had an alliance with the Congress I party — the chief foe of the BJP — said it was supporting the Hindu nationalists, who have almost no following in Tamil Nadu, to help prop up a stable government in New Delhi.

Mr. Advani said the Congress and the loosely-knit minority coalition it supported before abruptly withdrawing support in November were faced with sure defeat.

"The traditional constituency of every single adversary of ours is cracking up," he said. "When democracy is played by crooked rules, it unleashes power struggles and ego clashes whose denouement even its distorters cannot control after a certain point of time."

He claimed the party, which was blamed for the Dec. 6, 1992, razing of a historic mosque in northern India by Hindu fundamentalists — a desecration that fuelled nationwide outrage and Hindu-Muslim clashes that left some 2,000 people dead — was now winning Muslim support.

"The changing mood of Muslim voters towards the BJP is, perhaps, the most important sociological feature of election '98," he said.

The BJP emerged as the single largest party in the 1996 polls, winning 162 of parliament's 545 seats and formed its first government under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a charismatic vote-winner, but quit after 13 days after failing to muster a parliamentary majority.

The Congress, which had finished runner-up, then dropped up the multi-party centre-left United Front coalition to keep their common

enemy — the BJP — from power.

But the Congress fell out with the United Front and forced the latter to change the prime minister, H.D. Deve Gowda, in April this year.

It then propped up Gujral's premiership but withdrew support last month after the Front refused to abandon a coalition member implicated in the 1991 assassination of former premier Rajiv Gandhi.

The early elections, involving some 600 million voters, are expected to see a three-way contest between the BJP, the sagging Congress and the United Front coalition.

Most analysts say the new polls will lead to another hung parliament.

Mr. Advani had earlier said that the BJP would urge the country to make a nuclear bomb.

"India must develop a nuclear deterrent," he had said. "We are for a nuclear free world but are against nuclear apartheid (which is practised by nuclear power)." India and its arch foe Pakistan are both widely believed to be capable of making nuclear weapons. New Delhi denies possessing a nuclear bomb.

India, which has fought three wars with Pakistan and one with China, exploded an underground nuclear device in 1974. It, however, claims that its nuclear policy is geared towards peaceful research.

## Yeltsin to stay at sanatorium another week — Kremlin

MOSCOW (AFP) — Boris Yeltsin needs another week in a Moscow clinic to recover fully from a viral chest infection, the Kremlin said Friday, soon after announcing the Russian president had undergone a routine heart checkup.

Yury Yarov, deputy head of Yeltsin's administration, told Interfax that Mr. Yeltsin needed about one more week at the Barvikha rest home just outside Moscow "to complete his recovery."

However, the news agency later withdrew the report without explanation.

Interfax then issued a new version of the story quoting Mr. Yarov as saying Mr. Yeltsin, 66, was working normally at Barvikha, and "things are all right," Mr. Yarov said Mr. Yeltsin, who emerged from Barvikha on Dec. 10, could leave the sanatorium at any time.

The confusion surrounding the duration of his stay at Barvikha echoed official comments Thursday: Mr. Yeltsin first said he would leave Friday, but was then contradicted by the Kremlin press service, according to which the Russian leader was simply "expressing his desire to resume work."

Mr. Yeltsin's doctors checked his heart condition Friday, the Kremlin told Interfax, adding that the routine examination had earlier been postponed due to his chest infection.

The results of Mr. Yeltsin's cardiologist examination were expected to be given later Friday at a briefing by Kremlin chief doctor Sergei

Mironov, with only a few journalists allowed to attend.

Renat Akhshurin, the cardiologist who performed a quintuple heart bypass operation on Mr. Yeltsin in November 1996, insisted this week that Mr. Yeltsin's respiratory infection was not linked with his heart surgery.

Mr. Yeltsin delivered his regular radio address Friday, praising the "glorious" episodes in the history of the Russian secret police, despite the dark chapters of mass persecution.

Last week the radio address was cancelled due to Mr. Yeltsin's illness.

He was shown briefly on television Thursday appearing relaxed and in good form, fielding questions from reporters ahead of a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor

Chernomyrdin. Despite a vigorous return to politics in late February, after an eight-month absence from the Kremlin due to the heart operation and subsequent pneumonia, Mr. Yeltsin appeared tired and absent-minded on a trip to Sweden earlier this month, and made several diplomatic gaffes.

In Stockholm, Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky was forced to explain Mr. Yeltsin's surprise announcement that Russia was to unilaterally slash nuclear warheads by a third.

Mr. Yastrzhembsky said the president would hold a series of important meetings with senior officials in the Kremlin before the New Year holidays.

He added that Mr. Yeltsin's agenda for January remained unchanged, and still included visits to India and the breakaway North Caucasus Republic of Chechnya.

## War Crimes Tribunal withdraws charges against four

THE HAGUE (AFP) — The U.N. War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has withdrawn charges against four "Bosnian Croat suspects" who were on its official "wanted" list, the court announced Friday.

In a statement the tribunal said the charges had been withdrawn because of "lack of evidence" against the four men, three of whom turned themselves in to the court earlier this year. The fourth man, Stipo Alilovic, died in Amsterdam in 1995, news of which was given to The Hague several months ago by Bosnian Croat officials but was only confirmed by the tribunal Friday.

Three of the four are currently being held at the court's cells at Scheveningen, near The Hague.

Marino Karava, one of the trio currently held in prison, had been named in the same indictment as one of the Bosnian Croats arrested by NATO troops Thursday in a daring night time raid.

Vlatko Kupreskic, who was brought to The Hague Thursday after receiving treatment for gunwounds sustained during his arrest was one of six men indicted for the April 1993 murder of scores of unarmed civilians in Ahmici, a village in Lasva Valley, central Bosnia.

The other two, Pero Skopljak and Ivan Santic, were indicted in a separate indictment for the same event during bitter Muslim-Croat fighting in central Bosnia in 1993 and early 1994.

The Lasva Valley killings were part of a Croatian campaign to drive Muslims from the area. There were at least 103 Muslim villagers, including 33 women and



Bosnian Croat Anto Furundzija is guarded by two United Nations security men at the War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague where he pleaded not guilty to charges linked to the 'ethnic cleansing' of Muslims in central Bosnia in 1993 (Reuters photo)

children, slaughtered in Ahmici alone. Most of the homes there were dynamited by the Croats once the Muslims had been driven out.

In the statement, officials from the International

Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia said the decision to withdraw charges from the trio must still be formally approved by the courts. The three men were among 10 Bosnian Croats who surrendered

themselves to the court in October this year. Zagreb, the Bosnian Croat's chief backer in the war were told that unless the men were extradited, Washington would block crucial international loans to Croatia.

## Zagreb concerned that main Bosnian Serb war crimes suspects still free

ZAGREB (AFP) — Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said Friday, after NATO peacekeepers arrested two Bosnian Croats, that Zagreb was "deeply concerned" that the main Bosnian Serb suspects were still free. "Croatia doesn't contest the legitimacy of the operation led by SFOR, but it is deeply concerned because the principal war crimes suspects (Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and (Milan) Martić are still free and nothing is being done," Mr. Granic said.

Quoted by Hina news agency on the sidelines of an Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) meet-

ing in Copenhagen, Mr. Granic also expressed regret that "no one has yet been accused of war crimes against Bosnian Croats."

The NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) arrested two Bosnian Croat war crimes suspects between Wednesday and Thursday in the central Bosnian town of Vitez.

Meanwhile, wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic and wartime Croatian Serb leader Milan Martić were still believed to be living at liberty in Bosnian Serb-controlled territory.

## SilkAir flight crashes in Sumatra

JAKARTA (AFP) — A SilkAir flight carrying 104 passengers crashed Friday near the island of Singkep near the southern Sumatra city of Palembang, search and rescue officials said.

Noster Sinaga from the National Search and Rescue Office here said the plane was heading for Singapore from Jakarta when it crashed off the

coast of South Sumatra. The official said he did not know if there were any casualties.

In Singapore, Singapore Airlines Ltd. (SIA) said Friday that a flight of its regional subsidiary SilkAir had gone missing en route from Jakarta.

"SilkAir has confirmed that flight M1185 en route from Jakarta to Singapore has lost radio contact

with Indonesian air traffic control," a statement said.

The statement said the flight left Jakarta at 3:23 p.m. (0823 GMT) local time and was due to land in Singapore's Changi airport at 6:05 p.m.

There are seven crew and 97 passengers on board, it said.

SIA spokesman Rick Clements said no SIA or

SilkAir planes had ever crashed before.

In early October, all 254 passengers and crew aboard a Garuda airline were killed in Indonesia's worst plane disaster. The plane crashed near Medan.

Speculative reports highlighted confusion between the pilot and the control tower.

## 10 people die following outbreak of rabies

LAGOS (AFP) — Ten people have died while many others have been hospitalised following a recent outbreak of rabies in Nigeria's southern Delta state, the National Council on newspaper reported Friday.

The head of the agriculture ministry in the state, Gen Osa, said that one of those hospitalised is a worker in a

veterinary department, bitten by an infected dog he was treating, according to the Independent newspaper.

Mr. Osa said Thursday in Asaba, capital of the state, that the outbreak of rabies has resulted in the death of several people.

The number of those taken to hospital was not immediately clear.

More than 1,500 doses of rabies vaccine have been distributed in the affected areas, Mr. Osa said.

One of Nigeria's four petroleum refineries is located in Delta state, while Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell has a major operational base in the same state.

## Russia facing new threat from ex-CIA Eastern Europe

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia is facing a new threat from intelligence services in Eastern Europe, which were previously allies of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin said Friday.

Yury Yarov, deputy head of Yeltsin's administration, told Interfax that Mr. Yeltsin needed about one more week at the Barvikha rest home just outside Moscow "to complete his recovery."

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## Russia facing new spy threat from ex-allies in Eastern Europe

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia is facing a new threat from intelligence services in Eastern European countries which were previously allies of the Soviet Union, Moscow's top spy-master said Friday.

Vyacheslav Trubnikov, head of the External Intelligence Service (SVR), told Interfax that some Eastern European secret services were helping their Western counterparts to spy on Russia in a bid to speed up integration with NATO and other Western bodies.

"They are organising hostile propaganda campaigns, trying to recruit agents on our territory and collect information on Russia, specifically to report it to leading Western intelligence services."

"The ties and contacts that have developed over many years make it easier for them to conduct intelligence operations in Russia," Mr. Trubnikov said, on the eve of Russian State Security Workers' Day — the 80th anniversary of the Soviet founding of the secret services.

Mr. Trubnikov gave as an example "recent campaigns in Poland to expose alleged Russian agents and spies."

Last month the Russian

embassy in Warsaw protested to the Polish government over a report in the right-wing daily Zycie, which published a list of 23 Russians, including diplomatic personnel and four people still living in Poland, alleging they had been spying since 1990.

The embassy said the Zycie report was "aimed at discrediting all Russians living in Poland."

In Brussels Wednesday NATO rebuffed a request from Russia to hold talks next year on the level of military installations the western alliance will establish in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland after they join in 1999.

The three former Warsaw Pact countries Tuesday signed protocols for their accession to NATO. Their entry to the alliance must however be ratified by the parliaments of the 16 existing allies.

Under current plans, NATO envisages having to spend a relatively modest \$1.5 billion over 10 years to integrate the three countries.

Most of the money is earmarked for new communications systems to allow their military forces to operate alongside NATO troops.



Greek soldiers walk on a snow-covered hill in the northern Greek mountainous plateau of Pieria searching for a Russian-built Yakovlev-42 plane, flown by the Ukrainian-Israeli Aerosweet Airlines, which disappeared from radar screens late Wednesday (Renter photo)

## Search continues in Greece for missing Ukrainian plane

ATHENS (AFP) — The search for a Ukrainian passenger plane with 70 people on board, missing without trace, continued in the mountains of northern Greece Friday amid a growing row over aviation safety at Salonika airport.

The aircraft, a Yakovlev-42, is believed to have gone down in the Mount Olympus and Pieria mountain ranges as the plane came into land at Salonika airport Wednesday evening.

Some 4,000 elite Greek troops, backed by planes and helicopters, were involved in the renewed search for the plane, which was made easier Friday by improvements in the weather in the snow-covered mountain ranges.

Search operations had been hampered by snow and fog Thursday.

In Kiev meanwhile, the Ukrainian Ministry for Emergency Situations said it was sending 150 rescuers with mountain experience to Salonika to join the search for the plane.

"The Ukrainian rescuers are ready and only waiting for orders to leave, which will happen today (Friday)," said ministry spokeswoman Natalia Tushko.

A passenger list released in Kiev by Aerosweet, the firm which chartered the plane, put the number of crew in the missing craft at eight and the number of passengers at 62 — six children, 16 women and 40 men.

It said the plane had been carrying 34 Greeks who work in Ukraine and were heading home for Christmas on a flight from Kiev. Also aboard were 25 Ukrainians, two Poles, a German and the eight crew.

Anxious relatives of the passengers gathered at Salonika airport demanding that the search be speeded up and accused the authorities of keeping them in the dark.

The loss of the aircraft, whose crew had spoken to the airport control tower in Salonika 15 minutes before it disappeared around 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT), has sparked a row over safety at the Greek airport.

Greek prosecutor Panayotis Dimopoulos said Friday there would be a preliminary investigation to establish the "exact conditions of the disappearance of the plane and security at Salonika airport."

Greek Transport Minister Tassos Mandelis Friday handed Mr. Dimopoulos a copy of the recorded conversation between the pilot and the Salonika control before the presumed crash.

Several union officials, representing air traffic controllers, mechanics and civil aviation workers, said that a special approach radar which was bought by the airport in 1995 had still not been installed.

The officials said the reason was opposition from local residents who believed that the radar emitted dangerous radioactive waves.

Transport Minister Mandelis, remarked: "If there was such a radar, (then) it would have been a better tool for our task ... but that is not to say that its absence was the cause of the crash."

In Kiev, the daily Vsie Ukrainkye Viedomosť reported Friday that two similar air disasters involving planes of the same Yakovlev-42 type killed 221 people in 1992 and 1993.

In July 1992, one crashed

in a mountainous region of China killing 106 people and in November 1993, 115 died when one crashed in the then Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Ukrainian paper said.

A three-engine jet capable of carrying 120 passengers at a cruising speed of 800 kilometres per hour, construction of the Yak-42 began in Russia at the beginning of the 1980s and it is considered reliable.

## German government moves to meet student demands

BONN (AFP) — The German government has taken steps to meet the demands of university students who have been demonstrating against crowded and under-funded colleges.

The 16 German states and the federal government agreed late Thursday, after a day of mass student demonstrations in Bonn to raise the amount of university scholarships by two per cent from next July.

Baden-Wuerttemberg state Premier Erwin Teufel said the parental income ceiling level used to determine scholarship eligibility would be raised six per cent, opening the way for more students to get financial help.

But no agreement was reached on the sort of basic reform needed to change the desperate situation in German universities.

Germany's creaking higher education system has 1.8 million students,

almost twice as many as the 970,000 places it is designed to provide.

Thursday's demonstration in Bonn by tens of thousands of students led to confrontations between students and police near Chancellor Helmut Kohl's offices.

The students, who chanted "Kohl must go", have been calling for more teachers and money to ease overcrowding in classrooms and renovate crumbling libraries.

They also oppose the introduction of tuition fees and want a reform in the system of grants.

Mr. Teufel said the federal government would present early next year a broader proposal on scholarships that he described as a "pragmatic compromise" favorable to students.

Since mid-1995, the amount of scholarship, including lodging, has been 830 marks (\$466) per

student per month in the West and 680 marks (\$382) in the East.

The scholarships have been limited to students whose parents' monthly income does not exceed 2,195 marks (\$1,233).

Students have been demonstrating in towns throughout Germany for weeks, in a movement some observers fear could escalate and crystallise wider frustrations.

Unemployment is at its highest level since Adolf Hitler took power in 1933, and Kohl's administration, which faces a general election in nine months, has been unable to effect the reforms it says are vitally needed.

One banner in Thursday's demonstration, borne by architecture students from Karlsruhe, asked: "Must we first throw stones?" They also carried papier-mache rocks, as a sign that next time they would have real ones.

## Chirac unveils fabulous collection of Egyptian antiquities

PARIS (AFP) — French President Jacques Chirac Friday unveiled the third stage of the renovated Louvre museum in the shape of a revamp of its outstanding collection of Egyptian antiquities.

Mr. Chirac spent 90 minutes walking through the 10,000 square metres of refurbished showrooms, half of the space devoted to Egyptian antiquities, in the Seine-side former palace of the kings of France in central

Paris.

By 2000, the new Louvre museum with its 60,000 square metres of showrooms and its rich collections will be the biggest in the world, at a cost of seven billion francs (\$1.1 billion).

The renovation, ordered by the late President Francois Mitterrand, began with the inauguration in 1989 of a glass and steel pyramid in a main courtyard of the palace, the work of Chinese

American architect Leoh Ming Pei.

He also redesigned the Richelieu wing of the palace, formerly occupied by the finance ministry, and his pyramid, at first contested but now accepted, serves as the main entrance to the complex.

The new collections comprise ancient Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities in airy displays, along with Italian paintings and drawings.

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## French police kill man under arrest

LYON, France (AFP) — A French policeman shot and killed a 24-year-old man in a police station incident shortly after the man was arrested, Lyon prosecutor Christian Hassenfratz said Friday.

The young man died instantly Thursday night on being hit in the face by a bullet from his own pump-action gun, which the policeman was manipulating, Mr. Hassenfratz said.

The policeman has been arrested.

The young man had been arrested with two other people in possession of the gun in the violence-ridden

Lyon suburb of Duchere.

Meanwhile in the Paris region, crowds of youths fought with police at Dammarie-les-Lys, east of the capital, overnight after a 16-year-old youth was shot dead by police.

He died after he tried to drive through a roadblock at high speed Wednesday night and police opened fire on the car.

Six vehicles including a fire truck were torched in Thursday night's violence and four firemen were slightly injured in stone-throwing. Firemen earlier put out a blaze in a public building.

## Carlos claims Palestinian attacks but will not confess to murders

PARIS (AFP) — While proudly claiming responsibility for a trail of Middle East-linked terror in the 1970s, "Carlos the Jackal" is staunchly refusing to cooperate with the Paris court trying him for a 1975 triple murder.

As the trial of one of the world's once most hunted men Friday went into its sixth day, the nine jurors and three judges of the Paris Assize court were due to hear more evidence on Carlos' alleged killing of two French police officers and a Lebanese informer on June 27, 1975 in Paris.

At hearings the previous day, which went well into the evening, Carlos rose in the dock to proudly claim responsibility for a string of terror attacks staged in the name of the Palestinian cause but refused to comment on the triple murder.

"I loudly and clearly claim moral responsibility with Palestinian groups and personal responsibility in all the acts of war carried out by the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine)," he said. "And I'm proud of this."

But asked whether he considered the 1975 triple murder as a PFLP operation, Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, refused to answer.

"Are you the killer?" presiding Judge Yves Corneloup insisted.

"I do not recognise the right of this court to judge me, I do not see myself as the accused, but as a person being held against his will," he said.

The case is the first of a series of six murder trials facing Carlos since being flown to Paris by French agents after his 1994 capture in Sudan. Carlos trained in PFLP camps and fought alongside the Palestinian group before setting up his own "terrorist international".

Since the trial opened last Friday in the central Paris law courts overlooking the Seine river, Carlos has repeatedly harped he was "kidnapped" and is being tried "illegally."

Largely staging his own defence, his successive pleas for postponements, new inquiries and annulments have delayed proceedings, with the trial now set to drag into next week and end Tuesday, some 48 hours behind schedule.

The murders took place a brisk five-minute walk away from the courthouse in the Rue Toulrier, in the Latin Quarter, 22 years ago, when three officers of France's DST counter-intelligence service turned up at a flat there on a tip-off from a Lebanese informer.

The officers found three Latin American men and a woman drinking and partying. Two of the policemen and the Lebanese were shot dead at short-range, allegedly by Carlos, on trying to establish his identity.

Carlos had allegedly staged several attacks in France and against French interests at the time but was still unknown to police.

In a 1979 interview to an Arab-language newspaper, he acknowledged the Rue Toulrier killings as well as a string of other attacks. He now says the interview was a fake.

While the prosecution has yet to plead its case, the court so far has heard ageing policemen and forensic experts who were called in at the time at the murder scene and interrogated witnesses.

Statements taken in 1975 from two of Carlos' women friends in which the suspect openly admitted the killings have also been read out.

A key prosecution witness, another former woman friend, said in court however that she had faked a passage in a 1978 book about Carlos, in which he confessed to shooting his friend turned traitor, Lebanese Michel Moukharbal, and firing at the officers to escape the scene.

Thursday, a ranking DST officer involved in the 1975 incident, recounted how the French stumbled on Carlos after being tipped off by "a good source" that Moukharbal was on his way to Paris to make contact with a PFLP agent planning to assassinate key figures in Europe.

Moukharbal was trailed on landing and photographed with various people, including Carlos, and finally detained.

After being held for five days without providing any information to the counter-espionage service, he led them to the Rue Toulrier flat only hours before he was due to be released.

The DST officer Jean-Francois Clerc denied claims by Carlos that Moukharbal was in fact an Israeli Mossad secret service informer and that the entire operation was a Mossad set-up aimed at baring France's ties with the Palestinians.







# Marking 50 years since the discovery of the Qumran scrolls

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

THE DEAD Sea Scrolls, described as "this century's greatest archaeological discovery for understanding the history and religion of early Judaism and nascent Christianity," are again in the news this year, during the 50th anniversary of their discovery in 1947. Several scholarly and popular books on the scrolls have been published, and academic symposia have been held in several countries. Appropriately, the Jordanian connection to the original discovery of the scrolls is also being marked by an exhibition in Manchester, United Kingdom (many scrolls were found in caves north-east of the Dead Sea in the Jordanian territory, and some are permanently preserved and displayed in Amman).

The exhibition at Manchester Museum highlights the unique, recently restored Copper Scroll (usually on display in the Archaeological Museum on Amman's Citadel). Also on display are other 1st Century BC Dead Sea Scrolls fragments and sectarian Jewish texts from the University of Manchester collection; a 2nd Century BC (or even earlier) papyrus fragment of the book of Deuteronomy in Greek from a Jewish community in Egypt; and a small fragment of the New Testament Gospel of John from around 125 AD. The exhibition entitled "Treasures of the Dead Sea — The Copper Scroll after 2000 Years," was opened in October by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah El Hassan, and continues until January 10, 1998. It also includes other ancient artifacts that shed light on the cultural context of the scrolls' times, and a short film on the opening, conservation and interpretation of the Copper Scroll (by Electricité de France, who recently conserved the scroll). Half a century after they were discovered, and over 2000 years after they were written, the Dead Sea Scrolls continue to fire the hearts, minds and imaginations of all who come in contact with them. The entire collection of over 800 scroll manuscripts was found in the area west of the Dead Sea in 1947-1956. The bulk was discovered in eleven caves located near an ancient religious community founded more than a century before the time of Christ, at a site now known as Khirbet Qumran. The community at Qumran is widely thought to belong to the very fundamentalist, messianic Essene sect whose headquarters were

probably in Jerusalem. The Essenes strictly observed Jewish religious laws in order to be ready for the end of time and God's intervention in worldly affairs. The writers of the scrolls refer to the members of the Qumran community as the "Yahad" (Community), "the doers of the law," "the sons of light," "the house of Judah" and even "Israel," but do not use any names known from other contemporary sources, such as historians' texts. The Qumran settlement may have played a special role in the Essene community, such as a site for purification or production of manuscripts.

## Dating evidence

The scrolls and fragments that make up the entire collection were mostly written in the period between c. 250 BC and 50 AD, according to the combined evidence of archaeological artifacts, radiocarbon dating, and paleographic comparisons of handwriting styles with other dated scrolls and texts. They were written by different scribes from various periods and locations, using a variety of styles, inks, and writing materials. The scrolls were all brought to the Qumran region for safekeeping, for some unknown reason.

The scrolls comprise different kinds of texts, including the Hebrew Bible, accounts of the Qumran religious community's culture and ideology, and fragments from Jewish literature of the time, such as wisdom compositions, liturgical poetry, and legal and literary texts. The Hebrew Bible texts, being at least a thousand years older than previously known biblical manuscripts, offer unparalleled insights into biblical history and people's lives and ideas in Palestine around the time of Christ. The collection of 20 scrolls from three caves that has been in Jordanian custody since the 1950s (only partially on display in Manchester) is representative of the entire corpus of Dead Sea Scrolls, in that it comprises a wide range of texts, styles and materials, according to Professor George J. Brooke of Manchester University. They include scrolls on leather, papyrus and copper, written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, with scribal features such as several different kinds of paragraphing and corrections.

## The historical significance

Dead Sea Scrolls scholars say the scrolls are historically important for several reasons: for what they reveal about the religious beliefs and cultural practices of a devout Jewish religious community, for Judaism as a whole, for the authoritative compilation of the Bible as it has been transmitted to us today, and as the backdrop to the formative years of Christianity. One of the most interesting dimensions of Palestine during the period of the scrolls is the fact that several different versions of the same biblical text were in circulation at the same time, even in the same location. It is clear, for example, that during the period when Hillel and Jesus were preaching several different Old Testament biblical texts were in use. This suggests a deep, ancient tradition of religious and cultural pluralism in the region, including what Dr. Brooke has called "a significantly open-ended attitude to scripture and a diversity of religious thought which is both poetically and legally minded."

The Copper Scroll that forms the centre piece of the Manchester Museum exhibition was discovered in Qumran cave 3 in 1952, due to its brittle condition it was only opened in 1955-56 in Manchester, after appropriate study and conservation work. It was cut into two pieces by Professor H. Wright Baker of the Manchester College of Technology. John Allegro (1923-1988) studied the scroll, and J.T. Milik was the official editor of the published official edition in 1962. The full text and photos were published in microfiche form in 1996 by E.J. Brill company of the Netherlands. The Keeper of Archaeology at the Manchester Museum today is Dr. John Prag, and the director is Tristram Besterman. The Copper Scroll was discovered in March 1952 during a survey by a Jordanian Department of Antiquities team headed by Henri de Contenson. The cave 3 in which it was found also contained fragments of parchment with writing, ceramic jars, and other pottery forms. Two copper scrolls were found one above the other against the north wall of the cave, with a huge boulder that had fallen on them and sealed them in place for some two millennia. The Copper Scroll has 12 columns of writing engraved on three sheets of beaten copper that were riveted together into a single scroll. The letters were made by striking a hammer against a flat-edged chisel, resulting in hard-to-read letters and problems in deciphering some of the contents. The style of the letters helps date the scroll to around 25-

125 AD, making it among the later Qumran scrolls.

## Made to last

The Copper Scroll (all other scrolls were of parchment or papyrus) was designed to last, and the reason for this is explained by the scroll's content. It lists a fabulous treasure hidden in 64 unidentifiable places, without any corresponding story or explanation. The treasure list mainly comprises gold and silver in large quantities — so large, in fact, that most scholars first thought the treasure list was imaginary, but today the scholarly consensus is that the treasure really exists. Several attempts have been made to find the treasure, but without success.

What did the treasure represent and where did it come from? The exhibition organisers, reflecting the scholarly consensus, suggest three possibilities: 1) It may have represented the cumulative wealth of the Essenes at Qumran and elsewhere, whose novices always forfeited their personal wealth to the communal treasury; 2) it may have represented the Jewish Temple treasury in Jerusalem that was moved to the Judean wilderness for safekeeping, before the Roman destruction of the Temple in 70 AD at the end of the second Jewish Revolt; 3) it may have represented the accumulated wealth of Jewish money collected in taxes after 70AD, when the Jewish religious leaders may have had little to spend it on and thus stored it for future safekeeping.

## PRESS PACK



The Copper Scroll has been recently extensively re-examined and conserved by Electricité de France, who have also produced a good facsimile of the original. The conservation work makes it easier to read the original text, and thus some new editions of the Copper Scroll will be published soon. The sponsors of the exhibition are the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, the University of Manchester, the Manchester Museum, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Electricité de France and E.J. Brill publishers.

## Husseini agrees with King on 'capital in Jerusalem'

(Continued from page 1)

"By this remark, the King meant that the capital of the Palestinian independent state should be inside the city of Jerusalem which embodies the old city and not anywhere else around the area and I strongly back this view," said Mr. Hussein.

Referring to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Hussein said that the whole

process is based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which provide for Israel's withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied since 1967, which means that the borders of the Palestine state should be those which existed before the 1967 war.

"If Israel tries to ignore the 1967 border line and if it gives itself the right to extend its borders eastwards, the Palestinians will assume

the right to look westwards where they have historic rights and property," warned Mr. Hussein. "If Israel claims that it owns property in the eastern sector of Jerusalem, we will demand our lawful right to regain 70 per cent of all of the western sector of the city," concluded Mr. Hussein.

(Continued from page 1)

"Visits such as these should take place through the House and its committees and should not be done on a personal level," Mr. Azayeh said.

Deputy Hamadah Fara'neh (Amman's First District), a frequent visitor to Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas and who maintains good relations with Arab members of the Knesset and arranges for their

## Deputies' visit to Knesset draws criticism

visits to Jordan and other Arab countries, visited Jerusalem with Mr. Ra'fat.

While denying that the two deputies invited Knesset's Chairperson Dan Teekhon to visit Jordan, Mr. Fara'neh did not deny that he and Sheikh Ra'fat held meetings with members of the Knesset.

On the other hand, officials at the Israeli embassy in Amman said they saw the deputies' visit as a very positive step.

Reports about the two deputies' visit to Jerusalem and their meeting with Knesset members appeared in the local press yesterday.

According to Al Arab Al Yawm, Deputies Fara'neh and Ra'fat proposed a trilateral meeting between Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian parliamentarians.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Fara'neh denied the report.

"We are not authorised by the Jordanian Parliament to speak on behalf of the House," he said.

"Therefore, we have no right to extend invitations to any Israeli on behalf of the House," Mr. Fara'neh said.

Mr. Fara'neh added that they were visiting Jerusalem on an invitation by Labour Knesset Member Saleh Tarif.

Deputy Ra'fat was quoted recently in an interview as say-

ing he was against the peace process and Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel. In the interview, however, he declined to say whether he would hold talks with Israeli parliamentarians.

"We encourage dialogue between the [Jordanian and Israeli] people, and parliamentarians are part of the people," Roey Gillad, the press officer at the Israeli embassy, told the Jordan Times.

## The Saturday Crossword

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By Edgar R. Fontaine

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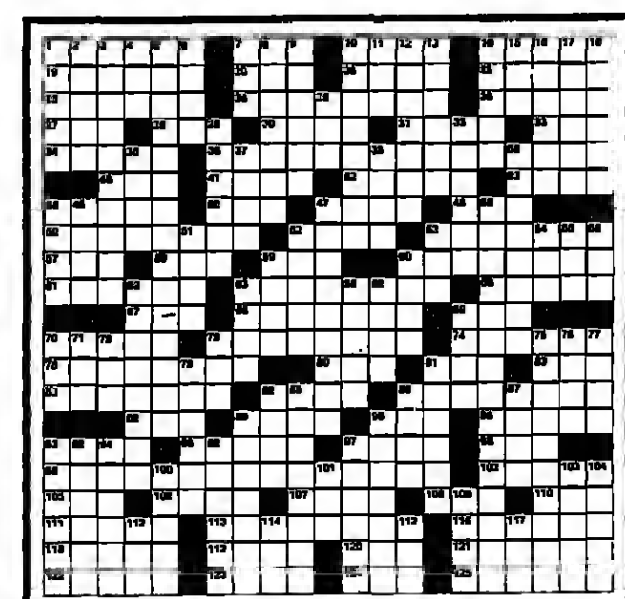
Diagramless, 19x19  
By Harold B. Counts

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SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DIAGRAMLESS PUZZLE



## Last Week's Cryptograms

1. New girl on Little League team turned out to be the hitter with most runs batted in.  
2. When sulky owl, living under some eaves, was asked how he got smart, he simply said, "Eavesdropping, man!"  
3. Test pilot eats big box of chicken wings, then won't make flight in experimental aircraft.  
4. Apprentice cook wies pancake contest when he uses better batter batter.

## CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JXPOB YLBRPE XARY OQQ XFP BOEMOAC  
TELEPY AC CPT YLBRACM JPCBPE BL  
MPE QLTPEH BEAJPY BLTYAQSP. — By Karl Ireland

2. NEOTHEO. BTIK GOOCWF QSWCVOCH  
ILOOR, TSX WBSUQ BT EZEKZWFF DQ  
NEOTEDCSQ WBSUQ VLK NODK XCVL  
IBDRZVKE. — By Rita Salvato

3. NOUP NPUTAPU OT SEE HAVT IT  
YAPPOVICU OCKY BISSUP BRPUK TYPON  
BEIS ICK YHITT OXY DEEKOK TOKOT. — By K.C. Doyle

4. PREPS FEMK PEKPR FEMKRY IN FLXPR  
PLAYING FEMAR NIKKIM YLGPRT. — By Ed Lindeman

## Arafat accepts Albright's plan of further crackdown on Islamists

(Continued from page 1)

approval, Yedior said. A senior Palestinian security official refused comment Friday on the report. However, Ahmad Abdul Rahman, the secretary general of the Palestinian cabinet, said the Palestinians would not permit others to determine their affairs. "No one has veto power over the Palestinians, not the United States and not Israel," he said.

Following his meeting here with Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, whose country heads the rotating EU presidency, President Arafat was to head to Egypt for further talks on the peace process.

Israel insists that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) must crack down on Islamist activists before it proceeds with its overdue withdrawal of troops from the West Bank.

The Israeli cabinet, however, is bitterly divided on the scope of the withdrawal.

Mr. Netanyahu said Friday the U.S. will have final say on the release of any Palestinian activists from jail under an agreement in principle worked out on the Palestinian role in fighting terrorism.

In an interview, Mr. Netanyahu told the Associated Press a detailed plan was being worked out to monitor Palestinian compliance with the peace agreement as well as Israel's handover of more West Bank land.

Despite intense U.S. pressure on Israel to define how much land it is willing to hand over, Mr. Netanyahu said he could not guarantee the cabinet debate on the future of the West Bank will be completed by the time he meets President Clinton in Washington, D.C., early next year.

The internal Israeli debate focuses on how much land Israel would need to keep in so-called "security zones" which Mr. Netanyahu said were designed to give Israel's army room to defend against an attack by neighbouring Arab states.

"A debate like this hasn't been done in the Israeli cabinet for 30 years so it takes a little more than 30 days," said Mr. Netanyahu, adding that no date had been set for the meeting with President Clinton.

"I can't tell you if our deliberations will be over at that point, but they certainly will be

far advanced." Netanyahu aide David Bar-Ilan said a Clinton-Netanyahu meeting was expected in January or February. He said that Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat may meet locally before the two go to Washington for separate discussions with Mr. Clinton.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of PNA cabinet, said Ms. Albright had failed to achieve progress in her meeting with Mr. Netanyahu in Paris on Thursday and called for better U.S. efforts for the Washington meetings.

"If the United States is interested in moving the process, it must take important preparatory steps, or they will have a replica of the many other meetings held at the White House," she said.

"This comes down to the fact that Netanyahu does not have the political will to move. I doubt that with this current government in Israel anything will be done."

Mr. Netanyahu declined to say if Israel would withdraw from more than 10 per cent of the West Bank in its next pull-back as Israeli media have speculated.

He insisted that any pullback

would be linked to Palestinian compliance with promises to crack down on Islamists and fulfil promises to expunge references in the PLO charter to Israel's destruction.

Mr. Netanyahu said Israel would insist on a five-month testing period in which Palestinian compliance was monitored before making good on its withdrawal pledge.

"There is an inherent asymmetry between the concrete things that we give and the less concrete things that they give," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"The minimum that we should do is have a period of a few months to test a change of Palestinian behaviour, to test Palestinian compliance." Mr. Bar-Ilan said Israel would make only one further withdrawal even though the Palestinians maintain the Oslo peace accords demand two more.

A Palestinian official said Mr. Arafat would agree to a 10 to 13 per cent pullback only if the U.S. guaranteed a third withdrawal. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said Mr. Arafat would demand resolution of issues such as a Palestinian airport.

## Aziz takes reporters on tour of Iraq's presidential palaces

(Continued from page 1)

Sergey Lavrov argued that maintaining the long-term surveillance of Iraqi industry — which is to expand after the inspections end — is more important than punishing President Hussein with force.

"We don't want the use of force because this will keep the United Nations from knowing the situation in Iraq," Mr. Lavrov said.

Mindful of the lack of support for a military strike, Mr. Richardson said the U.S. would seek a joint statement affirming U.N. demands for access to all sites.

He said a draft statement would be circulated among council members Thursday for approval Friday or next week. But such statements require unanimous approval, and that may be difficult if the language

appears threatening. French Ambassador Alain Dejammet said the Americans were seeking a joint statement "but we are not alone," meaning France was not agreed to support it. Mr. Dejammet said instead of threats, Mr. Butler should "never accept a 'no' as a definitive 'no'" and continue negotiating.

"Contrary to some, we believe it is not as discouraging as has been discussed," Mr. Dejammet added.

In Washington, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said the Clinton administration wanted a "very clear statement from the Security Council that access means access."

verify that Baghdad has destroyed its illegal weapons — the main condition for lifting sanctions imposed in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

"So at the very least, we would hope that this would extend the sanctions indefinitely," Mr. Berger said. "And, as the president said, we have ruled out no other options."

A European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the council could simply forswear any new actions and maintain the current sanctions indefinitely.

He said that as long as Iraq "keeps shooting itself in the foot," there was no chance the council would accept Russian and French suggestions to certify Iraqi compliance in certain areas — such as long-range missiles and nuclear research programmes — and ease sanctions gradually.

Mr. Lavrov argued Mr. Butler's report showed some positive signs. He noted that the inspectors had found no evidence that Iraq resumed manufacturing illegal weapons during the days last month when all inspectors were withdrawn from the country.

Iraq's ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, accused Mr. Butler of misrepresenting Iraq's position. Mr. Hamdoun said the Iraqi side was not unequivocally refusing to disclose new information "but at the moment it has no new information."

He also said Iraq had agreed to allow the inspectors to visit all locations "except presidential sites." Iraq claims the right to limit inspections to protect its national sovereignty.



## Steering committee formed to help set up 'junior business people association'

By Ghaila Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Young entrepreneurs have laid the foundation for a "junior business people association," to help boost their role as Jordan prepares to join world market economies.

Over 30 delegates formed a seven-member steering committee during a meeting on Wednesday to help set up a parley that will be open to all businessmen regardless of their age.

"The proposed forum will help facilitate and activate the role of young business people in building Jordan's business future... especially during an era of (economic) globalisation," said the younger generation of Jordanian businessmen attending a meeting held by Germany's Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF).

Earlier, the hand-picked participants discussed a University of Jordan study by Professor Nassim Barham of 131 private-sector enterprises.

The study found that most of the enterprises were family-owned non-risk takers — a move that could hamper their expansion through increasing equity by forming shareholding companies that could be listed on the stock market with improved accounting methods and clearer decision-making structures.

"To distribute the risk, the majority of business people invest in unrelated projects at times of economic growth and do not act in periods of

recession in spite of government incentives," Dr. Barham said.

His study also revealed that most of the companies were not innovative in introducing new ideas to the market and in selling their products. Instead, they relied on the government to open new markets for their goods — a setback for future expansion in today's world market economies that follow fast-changing consumer trends.

"These business persons do not focus on the local market and feel that there is no need to improve the proficiency of workers," Dr. Barham said.

The study found out that 53.5 per cent of the firms were small-scale enterprises — employing less than 10 staffers — 43.8 per cent of Jordanian entrepreneurs began doing business after the age of 30 and that 81.6 per cent of them were highly-educated.

Dr. Barham said government red tape, a small market with weak purchasing power and lack of adequate financing were major obstacles hampering the companies' growth.

The government has earlier this year introduced amendments to the investment law which now allows for a 100 per cent foreign equity ownership in six key sectors.

The study showed that 90.4 per cent of business people in Jordan were negatively affected by Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel which opened the gates towards trade links between

incompatible economies.

Omar Salah, one of the participants, said that despite the challenges facing Jordanian businessmen, the proposed forum should help attract "more entrepreneurs" as Jordan enters the year 2000.

He also said economic prosperity would widen to include more middle-class Jordanians.

Mr. Salah is the chairman of Century Investment Group which is employing 1,200 at its 12 factories established at the newly designated Qualifying Industrial Zone in Irbid — all on a 50/50 partnership basis with world multinationals.

But many participants expressed fears that the forum might not be realised in a society where business people have long complained over lack of improvement but have rarely proposed alternative solutions to achieve change.

"Our Arab culture does not accept change," stressed one entrepreneur. "How would you train people to change the way they think?"

Many also complained that the current education system generally did not prepare students to accept change and meet future challenges brought about by technological advances in a rapidly-moving world.

Jordan, they said, lacked efficient vocational training centres. Some suggested the establishment of a private-run training institution to improve the skills of labourers.

### The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Transport Privatization of the Aqaba Railway Corporation Request for Expressions of Interest

The Government of Jordan is seeking expressions of interest for firms to operate the Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) under a concession agreement.

ARC is a state-owned company that provides rail service from phosphate mines owned by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) at Abiad and Hassa, and Shidiya for export through the port at Aqaba. The mine at Shidiya, is not presently served by rail, and rail service is provided via a transshipment facility.

The concession will include:

- operation and maintenance of ARC;
- financing and construction by the concession of a rail extension to the JPMC mine at Shidiya, under a BTO arrangement (build, transfer and operate); and
- investment in upgrading and overhaul of locomotives and wagons.

Construction of the extension and improvements in operations and equipment will make at least 5 million tonnes of phosphate available to be moved by rail per year, compared with the present level of 2.5-3.0 million tonnes per year.

The Government is also considering including as part of the concession, the financing, construction, and operation of a rail link between Aqaba and the Aqaba Industrial Area (Wadi II), which will require additional investment by the concession. This extension will increase the traffic available by an estimated 3.5 million tonnes.

An efficient ARC is vital to the competitiveness of JPMC, one of Jordan's major exporters, therefore the Government is looking for experienced railway operators, with financial capability to undertake this project. The Government is seeking expressions of interest from firms or consortia with the following operating and financial capabilities:

- a) average annual turnover (defined as works in progress and completed) over the last five years of US Dollars 100 million equivalent, and;
- b) successful experience in the development, implementation and operation (including procurement of rail equipment, provision of maintenance services, and overall management) of heavy railway freight trains.

If your firm or consortium meets these conditions, we would be pleased to receive an indication of interest, accompanied by a statement of your qualifications and capabilities.

It is the intention of the Government to conduct a competitive bidding process for the selection of the concessionaire. We will review the expressions of interest received and prepare a short list of candidates for the next Stage which will involve the submission of Technical Proposals by candidate firms or consortia. An announcement of the short list will take place early in 1998.

The implementation of the concession is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport which has engaged CPCS Transcom Ltd. to assist in the matter.

Please forward your expressions of interest no later than January 25, 1998, to the attention of:

Mr. Yahia Jdaitawi  
Director of Railway Department  
Ministry of Transport  
Government of Jordan  
P. O. Box 35214  
Amman 11180  
Jordan  
Tel: 962-6-5518111  
Fax: 962-6-5527233

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Handle domestic chores early. It looks like you're just too popular for your own good. Don't worry. You can handle all the invitations. Save a long distance phone call for late tonight. It'll give you more time to talk, and besides that, rates will be down.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Dealing with a large company or bureaucracy has had you jumping through hoops. Just when you thought you'd jumped through the last one, another set of hoops would appear in front of you. Well, take heart. That problem has been resolved and progress will soon be apparent.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Something you've been trying to accomplish is finally going to come true. There are hassles, but it'll work out. Tonight you'll have a blinding insight. This could come in the form of advice from a partner. You learn something that will prove to be most helpful.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) You've been on the hot seat lately, but were able to handle it. Sometimes people just feel like they have to say what's on their minds. You've given them the room to do that, and now they feel better. You'll feel better soon, too, as you see your good deeds paying off for you once again.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) It looks like an interesting evening for romance. You and your sweetheart should have a fascinating conversation, possibly about finishing up one thing and starting another. You'll see a path ahead more clearly late tonight and tomorrow. You'll be able to achieve something that seemed impossible.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You and your buddies are finding it easier to accomplish whatever you want. You're working well together. In fact, it's more like fun than work. You'll be most productive in the morning. Later, you might start feeling anxious. Not to worry. Upcoming changes will take your life easier soon. Just keep the faith and keep on trucking.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This has been a good time of year to straighten out misunderstandings. If you've already done that, it's time to get on with new projects. One of those could appear to you by this morning, and another sometime this afternoon. The latter has many others involved. That will be the easier one.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A job you've been struggling with will suddenly fall into place. A co-worker you haven't liked may even be more amenable. It's because you're both going in the same direction now instead of locking horns. You should be able to get a great deal of work done this afternoon. There may be complications in your life, but the workload should be getting easier.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) This could be a good evening to travel. During the middle of the day, you'll have other concerns. Somebody from far away needs attention, and maybe a little of your money. Hopefully, you'll have enough left to go out to dinner. If you do, head a little farther out than you usually go. You'll both be in the mood for adventure.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) For the last several months, you've been struggling with something you were trying to build, fix or change. You've just about given up hope. This morning, progress will become easier to achieve. There will still be a lot of work, but less anguish. The whole thing might turn out to be a hoot.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) When you get together with relatives tonight for a few beers, be careful what you say. People look to you for advice, so put some in a place where they can find it. And say it in a way they can understand.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You've had to scrimp and save for months, but conditions are changing. Since you've had to do without for so long, you'll be sorely tempted to overspend. Don't go through your entire winnings in the first week. If you can help it. Instead, make use of what you've learned over the last several weeks and spend your money wisely.

Birdstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

## Companies try to make profits from 'arranged deals' at AFM

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A buy-back process at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) failed to achieve good results in the last week's turnover compared with the previous week's level with the general price index declining as well, brokers said Friday.

Naim Naqeb, a broker at the stock market, said that local portfolios have resorted to selling some of their shares in an "arranged agreements" under which they would buy the shares again in order to "register profits in their books."

"It is like a plastic surgery to enable the local portfolios

to record profits in their books before the end of the year," Mr. Naqeb told the Jordan Times.

Another broker, Nasser Amad, said that the "previously arranged contracts were responsible for the weekly trading volume."

The AFM weekly bulletin indicated that the weekly turnover reached JD8.9 million, a 31 per cent decrease compared with JD12.9 million registered a week ago.

The bulletin showed that the general price index, based on 60 registered firms, has also decreased from 170.02 point in the second week of this month to 169.7 in the previous week.

Mr. Naqeb attributed the

decline in the general price index to the crisis between Jordan and Iraq following the executions of four Jordanian citizens on Dec. 8 for smuggling car spare parts.

He emphasised that dealers thought the tension will affect the trade between the two countries and that led to the decline in the trading of shares that belonged to firms that trade with Iraq.

"But after three days, everybody was sure that nothing is going to happen between the two countries and, as a result, trading went back into its previous form," Mr. Naqeb said.

But Mr. Amad believes that

(Continued on page 9)

### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

**ACROSS**

- Supporting loop
- German sub
- Actress Arthur
- Pie nut
- Norwegian
- Powerful sphere
- Swimming gold medalist
- Fabray, familiarly
- Tim, the actor
- "Divine Comedy" writer
- Struggled awkwardly
- Soldier
- Habituated
- Form a plan
- Suffered soreness
- Having delicate health
- "If You Drop"
- Talon
- Night watchman
- Pronounce indistinctly
- Haw's partner
- Animated pig
- Candidates
- "
- Natural talents
- Stiff and formal
- Statted windows
- Camera maker
- 1976-80 Wimbledon winner
- Stevendores' grp.
- Tennis gold medalist
- Gibson of "Hamlet"
- Med. Images
- Proclamation
- Hindu title
- Merits
- Actress Roker

**DOWN**

- Health resort
- Moon vehicle, briefly
- Frigid
- Mil. branch
- Cantankerous
- Removed ties
- "Ben Hur" costar
- Scot. Island
- Long, long time
- Twining growth
- Speed-skating gold medalist
- Muse of poetry
- Doubleday of baseball
- Lack
- gratia artis
- Shute novel, "On the"
- Sam, for one
- Boxing gold medalist
- Concord
- Dog tired
- Enthusiastic
- Chicago hotel
- Covered with hair
- Highly unconventional
- Try hard to persuade
- Ancient
- European
- European
- Rock-breaking tool
- Clean-up hitter
- Altar in the sky
- Roman squares
- Clears the surface
- Chan's portrayer
- Very fertile loam
- Mawr
- Gun-owners' lobby
- as Salaam
- Excitement
- "With — You Get Eggroll"
- Part of B.S.
- Native of, suff.

**Peanuts**

HOW MANY CHRISTMAS CARDS DID YOU SELL? I DIDN'T SELL ANY!

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BUY PRESENTS FOR ALL YOUR GIRLFRIENDS? I DON'T HAVE ANY GIRLFRIENDS. ALL I HAVE IS A DOG.

DID SOMEONE SAY "DOG"?

**Andy Capp**

HI, EVERYBODY. I'M JUST BACK FROM LONDON.

WHY IS EVERYONE SO QUIET, JACK?

ER, DUNNO.

I DO, HALF OF 'EM ARE JEALOUS THAT HE'S BEEN SOMEWHERE THEY HAVEN'T, AND THE OTHER HALF ARE SORRY HE DIDN'T STAY THERE.

**Mutt'n' Jeff**

IF YOU HAD BRAINS LIKE ME, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK SO HARD AS A CITY PLUMBER'S HELPER!

HEY, WHAT'S THE "DEA PARKIN" BY A HERSE? I NEVER NOTICED THAT BEFORE!

I ALWAYS PARK HERE, EH?

SO YOU ALWAYS PARK HERE, EH?

SO LONG, MUTT! I GOT TO GET BACK TO THE SHOP WITH THIS!

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

"When I crash, air bags go off to prevent me from pounding the computer."

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAGEA

ROSYR

KENASH

WEFURC

Answer: HE...THE

WHY THE LOCK-SMITH'S COMPUTER DIDN'T WORK

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: JEWEL TRULY FASHION BELIEF Answer: What the cameraman captured on his photo of moonshiners — A "STILL" LIFE



# Business & Finance

## Nomura highlights success of Arab Potash GDR listings

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The listing of the Arab Potash Company's (APC's) global depository receipts (GDRs) in the London and Amman bourses has closed successfully, a spokesman for Nomura International, the firm which led the listing procedure, announced Thursday.

"We think this represents a strong vote of confidence in Jordan, in its national currency, and in the Arab Potash shares," said Asaad Razzouk, the Nomura representative.

Mr. Razzouk told a press conference that the offering was for 3,622,500 GDRs, each representing one of the APC's shares which were made available to global investors.

shows were conducted with APC management in Tokyo, Sydney, Paris, Geneva, Rotterdam, London, and the USA.

The majority of investors in the APC shares were investment managers and pension funds which represent an approximately 80 per cent of total demand.

"Long term investors are very important because they take a long term view of the economy, the currency and the company," said Mr. Razzouk. "So there is always an emphasis on placing shares with long-term investors," he explained.

"You do not want too many speculators in the stock because then, they will drive the stock up and down in a random manner," he added.

policy in Jordan, the new changes in economic laws, specially the bourse, and permitting foreign investors to trade in the AFM are necessary to enhance investments in the economy," said Mr. Razzouk.

"The stock price has been stable at that level since the issue and we expect it until January, primarily because of the holidays in Asia, Europe and the U.S.," he added.

Mr. Razzouk said the volume that changed hands since the issue date is approximately 20 per cent of the GDR size, or \$7 million.

He emphasised that 300 shares were traded as well at the Amman stock market at JD6.25 each since the issue date.

Mr. Razzouk said the demand of the GDR despite the recent collapse in the Asian markets is a clear message of foreign investors' confidence in the Jordanian market.

said Mr. Razzouk. "And therefore you would be putting the currency and growth prospect in doubt as well as putting the strength of the company in doubt," he added.

Naser Al Sadoun, APC general manager, revealed that the revenue of the list-

ing will be used to expand the company's projects and modernisation of its equipment.

Mr. Sadoun told reporters that the firm's long-term objective is to increase the annual production of the firm to two million tonnes.

1997 net profit is expected to reach JD19 million.

The APC, a major foreign currency earner to the Kingdom, is owned by Jordan and several Arab governments. 51 per cent of its shares are owned by the government.

## Trading at AFM drops

(Continued from page 8)

the decline of the general price index was mainly because the decline in the share prices of Arab Bank, Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC).

closed at JD330 compared with JD332 week ago, while the APC and JPMC shares closed at JD6.4 and JD6.2 respectively.

The two brokers agreed that a "competition" was underway between brokers (intermediary firms) to register the highest trading volumes.

## REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 18/12/97 20:57									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	MLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7708	0.6932	1.4236	128.02	1.4331	1739.00	1.9870	6.5533
OE Mark	0.6647	1.0000	0.3380	0.8068	72.86	0.9089	880.82	1.1277	3.3601
GB Sterling	0.6932	1.2806	1.0000	2.3611	164.36	1.4928	2060.72	2.5330	8.9027
CH Franc	0.6932	1.2806	0.6932	1.0000	136.63	1.0021	1216.30	1.3820	4.4448
JP Yen	0.0078	1.3716	0.0078	1.0772	1.0000	1.1099	112.56	1.4893	4.8903
CA Dollar	0.6932	1.2806	0.6932	1.0000	111.00	1.0000	1226.86	1.4893	4.8903
IT Lira	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	336.44	0.8241	11.47	3.4683	11.47
ML Guildr	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	33.64	0.7181	970.41	1.12	3.4683
FR Franc	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	21.76	0.2418	33.64	3.4683	11.47

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAN	QAT	KUW	AED	LEB	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7804	0.3770	3.6408	0.3043	3.6728	1622.50	3.3660
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.3292	0.5329	5.1424	0.4298	5.1878	2180.42	4.7962
Saudi Riyal	0.2648	0.1988	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	405.36	0.9062
Bahraini Dinar	2.46	1.7790	9.8480	1.0000	9.84	0.8072	9.74	4038.48	3.6985
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1946	1.0301	1.0301	1.03	0.0836	1.01	418.18	0.9326
Kuwait Dinar	0.2642	0.1937	1.0247	1.0247	1.02	0.0829	1.01	418.18	0.9326
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0211	1.02	0.0829	1.01	418.18	0.9326
Lebanese L1000	0.66	0.4650	2.4633	0.2478	2.3913	0.1989	2.4211	1.22	2.2229
Egyptian	0.2946	0.2086	1.1047	0.1110	1.0724	0.0896	1.0618	448.45	1.0000

Energy									
Oil	Last	Previous	Oil	Last	Previous	Oil	Last	Previous	Oil
Brent	17.48	17.57	WTI	17.48	17.57	WTI	17.48	17.57	WTI
WTI	17.48	17.57	Brent	17.48	17.57	Brent	17.48	17.57	Brent
Brent	17.48	17.57	WTI	17.48	17.57	WTI	17.48	17.57	WTI
WTI	17.48	17.57	Brent	17.48	17.57	Brent	17.48	17.57	Brent
Brent	17.48	17.57	WTI	17.48	17.57	WTI	17.48	17.57	WTI

Metal Prices			Period					
Metal	Bid	Offer		-1-	-3-	-6-	-9-	-1-
			Month	Months	Months	Months	Months	Year
Gold (oz's)	288	288.5	USD	5.67	0.78	0.78	5.81	0.57
Silver (oz's)	6.05	6.07	GSP	7.21	7.59	7.71	7.85	7.85
Platinum (oz's)	351.5	356.5	JPY	0.24	0.29	0.21	0.28	0.30
AL (3 Months)	1040	1044	DEM	3.65	3.44	3.56	3.62	3.75
CU (3 Months)	1778	1782	FRF	3.47	3.57	3.45	3.73	3.81
Zinc (3 Months)	1127	1140	ITL	1.24	1.34	1.43	1.56	1.62
Lead (3 Months)	850	855	CHF	5.97	5.98	5.98	5.27	5.40
Ni (3 Months)	8850	8870						

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls		
New York	DOW JONES	7722.41	-124.09	-1.58	7848.47	7676.33	7746.5		
New York	S&P 500	940.42	-14.99	-1.58	963.5	924.92	956.3		
London	FT-SE 100	5020.2	-148.1	-2.97	5163.6	4886.7	5182.3		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	12514.59	-446.75	-3.4	13104.8	12170.8	12616.5		
Paris	CAC 40	2822.8	-71.6	-2.47	2948.83	2755.09	2884.6		
Frankfurt	DAX	4084.78	-81.49	-1.98	4126.33	4004.54	4108.24		

Energy			Commodity		
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Commodity	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/lbs)	160	Spot	US Dollar	0.706	0.710
Cocoa (c/lbs)	1718	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1679	1.1737
Sugar (c/lbs)	301.5	Spot	DE Mark	0.5987	0.6007
Wheat (c/lbs)	108	Spot	CH Franc	0.4937	0.4952
Soya (c/lbs)	24.84	Spot	FR Franc	0.118	0.1196
Tee (shg/kg)	165	Spot	JP Yen	0.0548	0.0576
Barley (c/lbs)	0	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3537	0.3550
Rice (c/lbs)	370	Spot	IT Lira	0.4062	0.4082

\*Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - BSHSISAM1									
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179									
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/12/1997 - 18/12/1997)									
WEEKLY REPORT									
DURING THE LAST 5 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW
335.000	330.000 ARAB BANK	15.2	1.21	30	5360	1740660	331.00	332.00	330.00
1.920	1.830 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	0.00	0.00	78	222434	406179	1.83	1.88	1.82
1.150	1.810 BANK OF JORDAN	4.0	0.00	43	128420	23483	1.90	1.92	1.89
1.140	1.000 BIL. EAST JRV. BK.	72.4	0.00	27	240340	420397	1.14	1.20	1.12
S 2.430	3.500 ZHOUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.4	5.93	01	78548	142969	2.50	3.60	1.73
5.300	5.130 THE HOUSING BK.	15.5	3.75	30	28284	145314	5.15	5.22	5.10
3.010	1.850 JOR. RUMULT BANK	10.6	0.00	33	28041	54030	1.96	2.96	1.99
1.770	1.710 JOR. RUMULT BANK	14.2	9.86	43	71047	50545	1.71	1.71	1.71
4.190	2.920 ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	21.1	0.00	3	30000	87900	2.93	2.93	2.93
3.090	2.440 JOR. ZILANIC BANK	12.4	3.93	52	15607	37444	2.44	2.44	2.38
1.170	1.130 UNION BK. SAV. INV.	154.3	0.00	5	29750	13465	1.14	1.14	1.10
S 1.830	3.650 JOR. INV. FID. BANK	15.7	0.00	6	2850	9736	3.78	2.74	2.36
1.910	1.910 JOR. INV. FID. BANK/SHM	0.00	0.00	3	400	940	2.25	2.25	2.35
1.910	1.880 BRIT. AL-HAL (BETHNA)	5	17.05	6	2150	1882	1.88	1.88	1.88
3.740	2.400 ARAB BANKING CO.	19.9	0.00	9	3441	8443	2.74	2.77	2.75

BANKS									
INDEX NUMBER	2375415	2375415	INDEX NUMBER	235.78	CHANGE	++ 0.27%			
2.010	1.840 JOR. FIDUCIARY INSR.	5.7	7.44	20	31350	42585	1.96	2.10	1.96
2.030	1.880 ARAB LIFE INSR.	8.6	4.55	2	931	1840	2.00	2.00	2.00
2.490	2.490 JORDAN GULF INSR.	0.00	0.00	1	10000	24000	2.49	2.40	2.50

INSURANCE									
INDEX NUMBER	49445	49445	INDEX NUMBER	118.31	CHANGE	++ 0.29%			
1.940	1.880 JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.4	5.13	63	48614	94453	1.94	1.95	1.92
3.800	3.720 ARAB INTL. HOTELS	17.2	4.57	4	424	2848	3.72	3.81	3.64
2.400	2.400 SHIPPING LINES	13.9	5.44	1	500	1190	2.40	2.38	2.38
1.270	1.080 NATL. PORTFOLIO	0.00	0.00	63	34650	36272	1.09	1.10	1.09
1.910	1.080 REAL ESTATE INV.	12.5	6.67	6	3074	1842	1.09	1.09	1.09
1.590	1.470 JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	29.3	0.00	63	30209	14031	1.47	1.57	1.47
8.110	8.200 ALBA	14.2	6.00	4	350	3930	8.20	8.30	8.24
7.100	5.500 AD-DUSTOUR	29.9	3.49	1	500	3550	7.10	7.10	7.10
1.300	1.250 MIO. EAST HOTELS	18.4	0.00	4	1400	1692	1.25	1.23	1.21
3.770	3.710 ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	10.1	0.00	38	8050	30854	3.70	3.80	3.65
1.850	1.740 JORDAN EXPR. INV.	0.00	0.00	10	34500	30713	1.74	1.85	1.74
1.920	1.810 BAKRA	0.00	0.00	9	2747	2639	1.81	1.81	1.81
1.730	1.680 UNIFIED CO.	7.9	6.59	13	3550	5886	1.68	1.64	1.67

SERVICES									
INDEX NUMBER	278363	278363	INDEX NUMBER	108.73	CHANGE	++ 0.41%			
1.150	1.100 ATTACHEE	0.00	0.00	9	9600	11040	1.25	1.15	1.15
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## Islamic Games for Women Jordan's delegation returns with 2 medals

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

JORDAN'S 14-member delegation returns from Tehran, Iran Sunday evening after taking part in the 2nd Islamic Games for Women grouping athletes from 19 countries.

The Kingdom's only medals came by Amal Al Mutari who clinched a gold medal in the 3,000 metres and added a silver in the 1,500 metres.

Mutari has been impressive throughout the year and won a bronze medal in the marathon at July's Pan-Arab Games.

Nine Jordanian athletes competed in athletics, table tennis and badminton in the Kingdom's first participation in the event. The delegation also included four officials and a referee.

In badminton, Jordan's team was impressive with Najwa Al Turk beating Afghanistan 2-0. Lina Rashdan lost 2-1 to Azerbaijan while Karolin Shaker lost 2-0 to Iran.

Najwa Turk moved to the second round and lost to Pakistan 2-1.

In the doubles, Lina Rashdan and Najwa Al Turk lost 2-0 to Turkmenistan and 2-1 to Azerbaijan.

The table tennis team lost to Syria, Kazakhstan, and

Indonesia.

The exclusively female Games were organised by Iran's Sports Solidarity Council for Women, headed by Faezeh Hashemi, daughter of former Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who is also a member of Iran's Shura Council and is vice-president of the Iranian Olympic Committee.

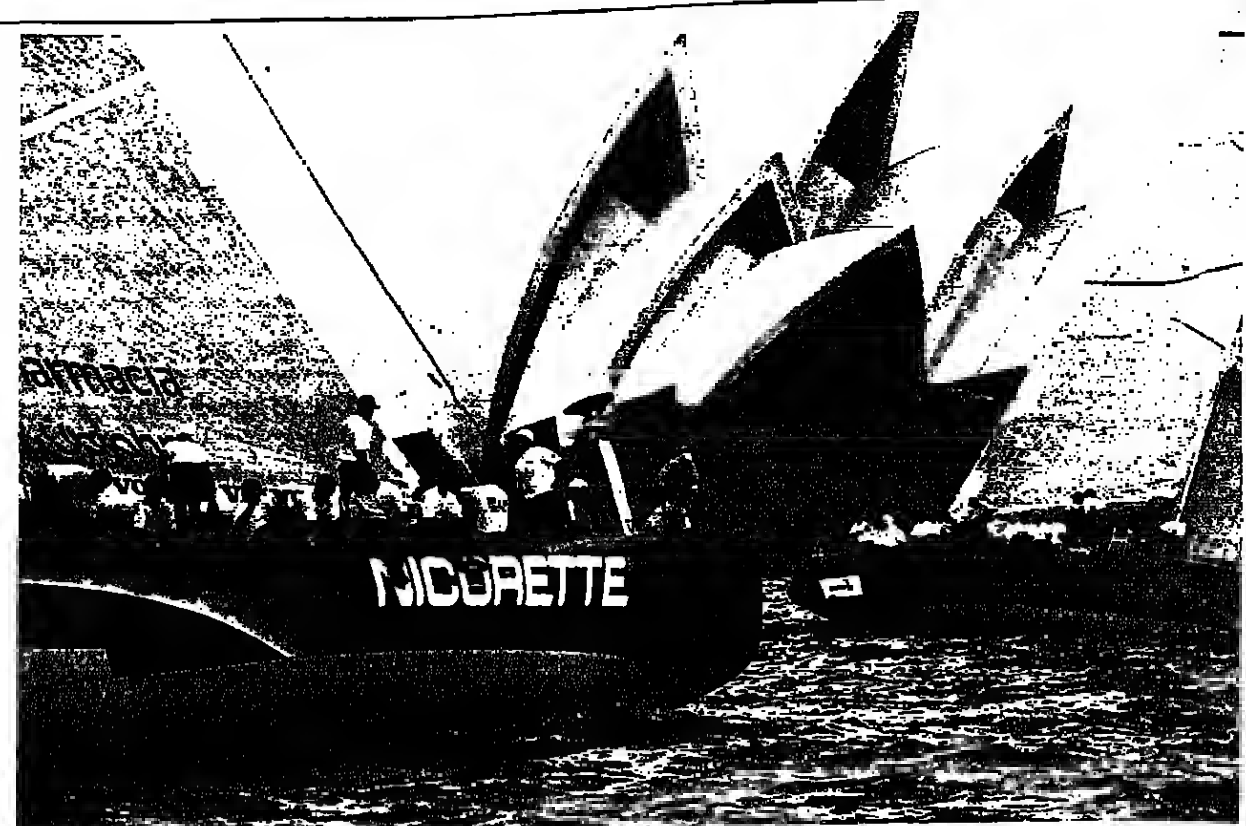
The Kingdom's delegation missed the opening ceremony due to a flight delay. Jordan also missed the meeting of the general assembly of the Islamic Solidarity Council which was reportedly held last month.

The Games were the first such event organised by Iran since February 1993 and were originally to be hosted by Pakistan, but returned to Tehran after Islamabad pleaded financial difficulties.

Events at the Games included athletics, chess, swimming, basketball, volleyball, tennis, shooting, handball, badminton, gymnastics, squash, equestrian and karate.

The week-long event was held less than two weeks after the Iranian capital hosted the 1st Southwest Asian Games which were open to men's teams only.

Jordan took part in eight sports and won ten medals at the event.



Swedish owned Maxi yacht Nicorette (L) leads Hong Kong yacht Exile in front of the Sydney Opera house in the last leg of the Big Boat Challenge on Sydney Harbour. Nicorette and Exile, which will compete in the annual Sydney to Hobart race December 26, finished second and third behind Australian yacht Brindabella in the Big Boat Challenge (Reuters photo)

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Brewers re-sign Scott Karl

MILWAUKEE (AFP) — The Milwaukee Brewers Thursday locked up another player into the next decade, signing left-hander Scott Karl to a three-year, \$7.6 million contract. Karl was 10-13 with a 4.47 ERA in 32 starts last season, spanning 193 1/3 innings. But after a 2-10 record in the first half of the year, he went on to tie the club record of eight consecutive victories from July 15 to August 29, and finished with an 8-3 mark after the All-Star break. "Scott is going to be an important member of our starting rotation for the next three years," said Brewers senior vice-president of baseball operations Sal Bando. "He has the potential to be one of the top left-handed pitchers in the National League." Karl, 26, owns a 29-29 record and 4.55 ERA with five complete games and a shutout in 89 career games and three seasons with Milwaukee.

#### Colombians name opponents

BOGOTA (AFP) — Colombia will play warm-up matches against Mexico, Northern Ireland, Germany and Belgium prior to next year's World Cup finals in France, the Colombian Football Federation announced Thursday. The Colombians plan away matches against Mexico in San Diego, California, on March 11, Northern Ireland on March 25 in Belfast, Germany on May 30 in Frankfurt and Belgium in Brussels on June 3. They also will play a match against English Premier League team Newcastle, for whom their star striker Faustino Asprilla plays, on March 22. Colombia also plan a four-team tournament for Bogota in April, although no opponents have yet been confirmed, said spokesman Victor Rosas. Colombia are in Group G for France 98 and will face England, Romania and Tunisia in the first round.

#### French wrestler banned

PARIS (AFP) — French international wrestler Philippe Nagy has been banned for two years after failing a drugs test. The 27-year-old, a former national grecoman champion in the 85-kilo category, tested positive for anabolic steroids last April.

#### Schumacher donates \$84,000

BONN (AFP) — German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher has donated 150,000 marks (\$84,300) to child victims of anti-personnel mines in Sarajevo. The two-time former world champion, who visited the Bosnian city on Wednesday, intends the money to be used to help build a hospital for mutilated children there.

#### Speed staying at Everton

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Everton on Thursday furiously denied reports that their star midfielder Gary Speed is poised to make a big-money switch to Premiership rivals Newcastle. The Welsh international has been linked with a move to Kenny Dalglish's side in a five million pound (\$8 million) swap deal involving Darren Peacock. Although there was contact between the clubs a week ago, Everton have since reacted angrily to claims that

former Leeds ace Speed was in talks with the Magpies. An Everton spokesman said: "It is absolute nonsense. Gary is definitely not involved in any talks with Newcastle." It is well known that Dalglish has been chasing the 28-year-old but it is believed that neither camp would be prepared to do business before the clubs meet in the FA Cup third round at Goodison Park on January 4.

#### China's Le in relays only

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Olympic champion Le Jingyi will only compete in relay events at the world swimming championships in Australia next month, her coach said. The Chinese swimming sensation will sit out the 50m and 100m freestyle events in which she is world record holder, her coach Zhou Ming was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua news agency. The announcement will come as a shock to many of her rivals who had named Le as favourite for the world titles. The 22-year-old won China's only swimming gold medal in Atlanta in the 100m freestyle. "Le is really tired and has been troubled with elbow injuries. Therefore she opted out of individual events," Zhou Ming told reporters at a short-course swimming meet in Shanghai. "Le will focus on the women's 4x100m freestyle relay." Zhou said. "She has recently caught bad colds twice and her training has been sporadic," he added. China's top contender in the individual freestyle sprints will be Shan Ying, who took the 50m at the China National Games in October, coming second to Li in the 100m. The world championships start in Perth on January 8.

#### Milutinovic Nigeria coach

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria on Thursday announced they had appointed Bora Milutinovic to coach their national team in next year's World Cup finals in France. The Nigerian Football Association (NFA) confirmed Milutinovic as the new technical adviser for the Super Eagles, who have been drawn in Group D with Bulgaria, Spain and Paraguay for next year's finals. Milutinovic, 53, replaces Frenchman Philippe Troussier, whose reward for taking the team to the finals was the sack. NFA president Abdulmumini Aminu said the Yugoslav was the "best choice for Nigeria at this juncture, we deserve nothing but the best." Milutinovic's contract is for an initial period of seven months, starting from January 1, 1998. He will receive a signing-on fee of \$100,000 and a monthly tax-free salary of \$35,000. The Yugoslav will earn \$50,000 bonus if Nigeria reach the second round in France, \$75,000 if they make the quarter-finals, another \$75,000 if they finish third, \$150,000 if they reach the final and \$250,000 for winning the World Cup. Nigeria are the fourth different country Milutinovic will have coached in the past four World Cups. Sacked last month by Mexico despite taking them through to France and coached the USA four years ago, Milutinovic was at the helm with Costa Rica in 1990 and Mexico for the first time in 1986. Milutinovic will be the most experienced coach in France alongside Carlos Parreira, who led Brazil to glory four years ago having coached Kuwait in 1982 before taking the United Arab Emirates for 1990. Parreira is now in charge of Saudi Arabia.

### England to face Chile and Saudi Arabia

LONDON (AFP) — Chile and Saudi Arabia will be England's next World Cup warm-up opponents, coach Glen Hoddle confirmed on Thursday.

Chile, who have drawn Italy, Cameroon and Austria in World Cup Group B, will visit Wembley on February 11.

The England coach has yet to finalise opponents for his planned friendlies in March and April, although plans for a March visit to take on the USA in Washington DC have been dropped.

But Hoddle has agreed to play host to the Saudis — who face France, South Africa and Denmark in Group C — at Wembley on May 23 in the final home game before the finals.

Hoddle said: "We're looking to develop a balanced and helpful fixture list between now and the start of the World Cup and both Chile and Saudi Arabia have qualified for France 98."

"Chile are clearly similar in style to Colombia; the same can be said of Saudi Arabia in comparison with Tunisia — and both Colombia and Tunisia, of course, figure in our group at the World Cup."

"We've other fixtures to confirm, notably in March, April and the end of May. I'm very pleased with the progress we're making."

England have only met Chile four times previously, winning 2-0 in Rio de Janeiro in the 1950 World Cup finals and 2-1 in Santiago three years later.

The next game, also in Santiago, saw England draw 0-0 on their South American tour of 1984, while the only game at Wembley was another goalless draw in 1989.

England's only previous meeting with the Saudis, a 1-1 draw in Riyadh in November 1988. Tony Adams's goal in that game was his last for England.

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## Abu Samra wins National Rally Mohammad Al Daoud takes Jordan Open title

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ma'rouf Abu Samra and co-driver Amjad Al Shamaileh Friday won the final rally of the 1997 season, driving their Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4 to victory with a time of 25.59 minutes.

Ahmad Al Daoud and co-driver Malek Hariri came second in a Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4 clocking 28.22m and Mohammad Al Daoud and co-driver Khaled Zakaria in a Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4 finished third with a time of 32.21m. Ibrahim Ata Ali and co-driver Fahed Al Naber took fourth place with 33.36m in a Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4.

Following a late night meeting, officials deducted penalty points against Abu Samra and Ata Ali and decided to give 2 minutes penalties so the final times were changed to Abu Samra with 27.59m and Ata Ali with 34.36m.

Sixteen drivers had initially registered but ten started the rally and only seven finished the race.

Due to heavy rainfall that swept the Kingdom the rally had

to be stopped and only the first three stages counted.

The drivers faced some hard road conditions as some faced mechanical problems due to the wet and uncontrollable rough terrain of the route covering a total distance of 241.34 kilometres passing through 3 special stages: Dabaa', Salayta and Mudeisat.

The only women's team, Tala Al Shawwa and co-driver Nancy Al Majali, came in the seventh place in their Ford Fiesta XR2i.

With the Avis National Rally result Mohammad Al Daoud won the Jordan Open Drivers Championship for the 1997 season. Khaled Zakaria won the co-drivers championship 1997.

The rally was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal. Prizes were handed to the winners at a ceremony at Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) headquarters Friday evening.

RACJ will hold another prize-giving ceremony wrapping up this year's season and crowning the champions of the Jordan Open Drivers Championship on Dec. 21.

## Football megastars killing the game says Dynamo Kiev coach

KIEV (AFP) — Mul-mil-lionaire football players like Inter Milan star Ronaldo are killing the game, Dynamo Kiev head coach Valery Lobanovskiy said, adding that England marksman Alan Shearer would not be welcome in his team.

"I'm sure that new star players like Ronaldo are slowing the development of football," he told a press conference.

"They receive money they do not deserve," he added. "They are working the way they consider to be right, but they don't understand what exactly the game itself demand from a player today."

"As for me, for example, I would never invite top English player Alan Shearer to

be the member of Dynamo Kiev team," he added.

He defended his team against criticism over their 2-0 defeat against Shearer's Newcastle United side in last week's Champions' League match, saying Ukrainian journalists had only seen the match on television.

It was impossible to report on matches from television coverage, which concentrates on the ball and ignores off-the-ball movement by key players.

"The most important thing in modern football is what a player is doing on a pitch when he's not in possession of the ball, not vice-versa," he continued.

"I consider star team, not the star player, to have more

prospects, taking into consideration evolution of the game," Lobanovskiy said.

"I don't really care which team we play in the quarter-finals," Lobanovskiy told AFP after finding out his team had been drawn Italian giants Juventus.

"We should be ready to meet any competitor if we cannot choose them ourselves," he added.

He said his team, which finished top of its qualifying group, is capable of overcoming the Italians.

"I think it's good our two matches start in Turin (on March 4). That means we have much more chances to prepare the pitch at Kiev's Olympic Stadium properly by March 18," he said.

## Campagnoni dominates giant slalom

VAL D'ISERE (AFP) — Italy's Deborah Campagnoni won her eighth straight World Cup giant slalom here on Friday.

The Italian had a combined time of 2mins 18.83.

Austria's Alexandra Messnitzer was second in 2:18.93. France's Leila Piccard (2:20.02) was third.

Germany's Katja Seizinger, who led after the first run and was poised to beat French legend Jean-Claude Killy's 1967 record of winning six consecutive World Cup speed events, crashed out in the second run.

## Utah defeat Orlando; Seattle overcome Denver

ORLANDO (AP) — Karl Malone scored 30 points and Utah broke open a close game with a 13-0 second-half run to pull away from the Orlando Magic 85-73 Thursday night.

The National Basketball Association's second-leading scorer didn't have a basket during the seven-minute stretch in which the Jazz took control, but delivered nine of his team's final 11 points down the stretch.

Adam Keefe, with 11 points, and John Stockton, with 10, provided offensive support for Malone. Utah held Orlando to two field goals by Darrell Armstrong in the first nine minutes of the final quarter.

Rony Seikaly had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Magic, which appeared sluggish despite playing on five days' rest.

Phoenix Suns 89, Dallas Mavericks 75: At Dallas, Antonio McDyess scored 10 of his 14 points during a third-quarter surge and the Phoenix Suns sent the Dallas Mavericks to their seventh straight defeat.

The Suns ended their three-game losing streak. They led 48-45 with 6:09 left in the third period before going on a 22-8 run to close the quarter.

McDyess had two dunks and Rex Chapman and George McCloud hit 3-pointers as Phoenix took a 70-53 lead. Dallas lost for the 18th time in 20 games.

Cliff Robinson scored 17 points and Danny Manning had 13 for Phoenix. The Suns have won 20 of their last 22 games against the Mavericks, who got 23 points from Robert Pack.

Los Angeles Clippers 82, Golden State Warriors 78: In The Los Angeles suburb of Anaheim, Brent Barry scored 17 points in the first quarter and Lamond Murray made four free throws in the final 17 seconds to preserve the Los Angeles Clippers' victory over the Golden State Warriors, who



Denver Nuggets' Eric Washington (14) tries to go around defending Hersey Hawkins (33) of the Seattle SuperSonics, during first quarter play at KeyArena on December 18. Seattle won 119-106 (Reuters photo)

trailed by 20 after the first quarter, pulled within 69-68 with 5:54 remaining, but eight points by Murray helped keep the Clippers in front.

Barry finished with 23 points, while Murray had 19 as the Clippers ended a four-game losing slump. Joe Smith scored 19 for Golden State.

Seattle SuperSonics 119, Denver Nuggets 106: In Seattle, Vin Baker had 18 points and 10 rebounds as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the Denver Nuggets for their fifth straight victory.

Six Sonics scored in double figures, helping Seattle win its 11th consecutive home game and improve its record to an NBA-best 20-5.

The Nuggets remained the only winless road team in the NBA, dropping to 0-13. Eric Washington led the Nuggets with 18 points and Danny Fortson added 14 as Denver lost its sixth straight game.

Detlef Schrempf and Gary Payton added 16 points each for the Sonics, who matched their highest-scoring game of the season.

## Potential investor in World Series champion Marlins sale drops out

MIAMI (AFP) — The sale of the World Series champion Florida Marlins from H. Wayne Huizenga to a group headed by team president Don Smiley may have hit a snag.

The Ackerley Group, a Seattle-based company that owns the National Basketball Association's Seattle SuperSonics, has decided against investing in the Marlins because it cannot have the control it wants.

The end of the negotiations with Ackerley raises questions on whether Smiley will be able to raise the \$150 million asking price for the team. Besides cash, Ackerley was expected to be involved in team ownership and stadium financing.

Barry Ackerley, the chief executive of the company, said in a statement Wednesday that the team ended negotiations because the "proposed deal was not consistent with the Ackerley Group's investment criteria of having a lead ownership portion in all its investments and acquisitions."

The announcement by Ackerley

comes after the Miami Herald reported last weekend that Smiley's deal may be in jeopardy. An unidentified group headed by team president Don Smiley may have hit a snag.

Smiley said last week he would be willing to keep the team into next season if Smiley's bid falls through. The sale was announced November 5 and Smiley was supposed to have his group together by Huizenga's December 5 deadline. The Herald said that the deadline was extended until this week and is likely to be extended further.

Smiley said five weeks ago he was "two-thirds" of the way toward meeting Huizenga's asking price. But several smaller investors in South Florida have voiced concerns about investing in a venture in which they would have no control.

Smiley said at the time of the sale that he planned to cut expenses, start-

ing with the team's \$53 million payroll. He has already delivered on that promise, with the latest slashing taking place Monday when pitcher Kevin Brown, who will make \$4.8 million in 1998, was traded to San Diego.

Marlins general manager Dave Dombrowski has already unloaded outfielders Moises Alou and Devon White, pitcher Robb Nen and first baseman Jeff Conine since winning the World Series in October.

The Marlins had a 36 per cent increase in attendance this season, but reportedly lost more than \$36 million.

Regardless of whether Smiley or Huizenga owns the team next season, neither wants to keep the Marlins in Pro Player Stadium, a facility which also houses the National Football League's Dolphins and one in which the Marlins receive almost no income from luxury boxes.

Huizenga and Smiley are lobbying for a new publicly-financed stadium.

## French hopeful of saving Grand Prix

PARIS (AFP) — French auto racing officials emerged from a meeting Thursday with Formula One boss Max Mosley saying they still believe there is a chance of salvaging next year's French Grand Prix.

Mosley had said he believed there was little chance of France hosting a Grand Prix next season even if a solution was found in the dispute over television rights.

Mosley has said France should amend its laws allowing

all channels to broadcast coverage of major events to keep alive its hopes of staging a race in 1999.

FIA want the law amended to protect exclusive deals struck with major networks.

"What is now urgently needed is a determined effort to clarify French television law as quickly as possible so the 1999 French Grand Prix can be included in the 1999 FIA Formula One World Championship," Mosley said.

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Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:		Q. 6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	
Q. 7 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:		Q. 8 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	
Q. 9 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:		Q. 10 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:	
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## Lebanese army links back south with rest of republic

KFAR FALOUS (R) — The Lebanese army on Friday opened for the first time in 12 years a crossing to Jezzine, a town held by pro-Israeli militiamen that is seen as a testing ground for peace prospects in south Lebanon.

Residents from Jezzine and the village of Kfar Falous embraced and sounded car horns after the army, trying to prove it can re-establish authority over south Lebanon, reopened the crossing at the village. "I am very happy. We thank God and we thank our government for reopening the crossing. We hope that one day there will be peace between all of Lebanon's sects," said Youssef Abu Kassem, a priest from Kfar Falous.

The crossing was closed in 1985 when Israel carved out its current south Lebanon occupation zone, forcing residents of Jezzine — the largest Christian town in south Lebanon — to



Lebanese people wave flags at the reopening on Friday, of the Kfar Falous crossing (AP photo)

take a circuitous route to enter the rest of their country ruled from Beirut.

The Jezzine enclave is formally outside the Israeli occupation zone and under the control of the Israeli-directed militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

Jubilant residents walked along the mountain road past check points set up by the army beside barbed wire fences. Signs warned of land mines, which were removed in recent days, a reminder of the frequent clashes between Hizbollah guerrillas fighting Israeli forces and their client SLA militiamen.

Beirut's authoritative Al Nahar newspaper said the Lebanese government decided to go ahead with the opening after U.S. officials, apparently after consultations with Israel, gave a guarantee of calm at the crossing.

## Iran hopes to restart talks on Rushdie — Mohajerani

LONDON (R) — Iran hopes to restart negotiations with the European Union over the fatwa — or death edict — hanging over British author Salman Rushdie, an Iranian minister was quoted on Friday as saying.

Islamic Guidance Minister Seyyed Ataollah Mohajerani told Britain's Independent newspaper no one would now be executed under the fatwa, but his government could not cancel it.

Iran's former spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, pronounced the fatwa against Mr. Rushdie in 1989 after deeming the author's novel "The Satanic

Verses" to be blasphemous. He said any Muslim in a position to kill Mr. Rushdie had a duty to do so.

Mr. Rushdie has since led a shadowy existence under British police protection while European governments have exerted pressure on Tehran to lift the fatwa.

Mr. Mohajerani told the Independent: "Iran will not execute anyone regarding this fatwa. But a fatwa from a religious authority is not something to be cancelled by a government — and the government of Iran cannot ignore it or cancel it."

Mr. Rushdie reacted cautiously to the interview. "My own attitude is 'wait and see,'" he told the paper.

"People seem very eager to believe that change is taking place on very scant evidence."

Iran and the EU recently healed a diplomatic rift that began in April when a German court accused Iran of state-sponsored "terrorism."

Tehran ordered the German ambassador to leave Iran and other EU states withdrew their envoys in protest.

"The negotiations with the European Union were stopped when the EU ambassadors left," Mr. Mohajerani said. "Now we hope we can restart negotiations."

## Iran's chief justice warns against 'plots' targeting Islamist regime

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's chief justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Friday warned against any domestic plots aimed at the Islamist regime and its supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Justice cannot remain silent about plots and intrigue" against the Islamic Republic and will react to such conspiracies, Mr. Yazdi said during Friday prayers at Tehran University.

The comments by Iran's top judicial official were clearly aimed at liberals and religious Shiite Muslims who have been accused of "conspiracy and treason" for openly questioning the extent of Ayatollah Khamenei's political powers.

"What is happening for you to say such things and bring harm to the guide eight years after his installation," said Mr. Yazdi, a conservative close to Ayatollah Khamenei and a key figure in the Islamist regime.

Mr. Yazdi's comments come several days after the arrest of Iran's main liberal opposition figure Ibrahim Yazdi, 65, on Sunday. His arrest and incarceration at Evin prison outside Tehran follows several months of intense power struggle between rival factions in the Iranian leadership.

Ibrahim Yazdi had criticised conservatives close to Ayatollah Khamenei for their opposition to Iran's moderate new President Mohammad Khatami.

More than 28,000 people have been killed in the conflict since 1984.

## Kurdish rebel commander renews truce call with Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — A Kurdish guerrilla leader appealed to European Union countries to mediate peace talks with Turkey, saying he was ready for a ceasefire. Kurdish television said Friday.

Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), made his appeal in letters to leaders of EU countries earlier this week. London-based Kurdish Med TV told the Associated Press.

Turkey has ignored similar truce calls from Mr. Ocalan in the past, saying negotiating with an organization that it regards as terrorist was out of the question.

Mr. Ocalan's call followed

Turkey's recent exclusion from EU expansion plans. EU leaders cited the country's alleged human rights violations and territorial disputes with Greece in keeping Turkey out at this stage of the expansion.

Most of the human rights allegations relate to Turkey's war with the Kurdish rebels in the southeast. The Turkish army is accused of burning and forcibly evacuating villages believed to be linked to the rebels.

The army has been carrying out offensives against PKK bases in Turkey and in northern Iraq to prevent the guerrillas from taking shelter in the mountains during the winter.

"We welcomed that Turkey's membership was indexed upon its improvement of human rights," the daily Hurriyet newspaper quoted Mr. Ocalan as saying in his letter on Friday. "Turkey can only reach its goal [for EU membership] if it admits the existence of a Kurdish nation and its democratic rights."

Turkey does not grant Kurds cultural rights and bans Kurdish in broadcasting and education. Turkish military officials were not available for comment.

More than 28,000 people have been killed in the conflict since 1984.



FATHER XMAS, GRANDFATHER FROST 'KISS AND MAKE UP': Santa Claus from Finland and Russian Ded Moroz (Grandfather Frost) hug each other at Torfyanovka border check-point, 210 km north-west of St. Petersburg on Thursday. Santa Claus and Ded Moroz met at the Russian-Finnish border as part of pre-Christmas celebrations (AP photo)

## Turkey hints it could soften stance on EU

ANKARA (AFP) — Vice-premier Bulent Ecevit said Friday that Turkey would "reserve its right" for full membership of the European Union, signalling a possible softening of Ankara's harsh stance against the EU.

"Full EU membership is Turkey's legitimate right" under a 1963 association agreement, Mr. Ecevit told the private television channel CTV. "Turkey will reserve this right," he said.

Mr. Ecevit's remarks differed from an announcement by Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz who threatened Wednesday to formally withdraw Ankara's 1987 application for full membership of the EU in the event that the bloc fails to include Ankara in its list of candidate states by June.

Citing concerns for human rights in Turkey and Turkish-Greek rows, EU leaders last Saturday excluded Ankara from negotiations on joining an enlarged union.

EU leaders instead offered Turkey a seat at a standing

pan-European conference in a bid to defuse its anger over being shut out of enlargement plans.

Reacting to Saturday's decision, Ankara initially responded by declaring it was severing political ties with the EU. Then came Mr. Yilmaz's declaration of Wednesday.

Mr. Yilmaz, currently in Washington, reiterated there Thursday that Ankara was still considering withdrawing its application to join the European Union.

But according to Turkish newspapers, Mr. Yilmaz said in Washington: "Turkey will consider withdrawal," and not "Turkey will withdraw."

The newspapers said the conservative Mr. Yilmaz had made his harsh announcement of Wednesday without consulting with his coalition partners, including left-leaning Mr. Ecevit and a small centrist party.

Mr. Ecevit downplayed the press reports, saying the situation has not caused major disagreements within the government.

Ankara and the European bloc signed an association agreement in 1963, calling for an eventual membership. Turkey then applied to join the EU in 1987, but its bid has been rejected twice since then. Ankara has been accusing the EU of making false promises over its 34-year bid for EU membership, while Greece, Ankara's long-standing rival, has repeatedly opposed moves to include the Turks.

During their Saturday summit, EU leaders agreed to launch preliminary accession talks with 10 former communist states and Cyprus.

Turkish officials say their country's economy is in better shape than those of the central and eastern European candidates, and accuse the EU of discriminating against predominantly Muslim Turkey.

In response to the decision to open talks with the Greek-Cypriot government, Turkey has threatened to "integrate" the island's Turkish-held north.

## Santa a Democrat, Grinch surely a Republican — poll

WASHINGTON (R) — Santa is surely a registered Democrat, given his reputation as a public benefactor, according to an opinion poll. But the "Grinch Who Stole Christmas," the fictional sportsman invented by author Dr. Seuss, is a Republican, the poll by Fox News concluded. The survey of 904 registered voters found that 39 per cent thought Santa would register as a Democrat against 22 per cent as a Republican. And 23 per cent were not sure what party he belonged to — suggesting these voters may not believe in Santa at all. Some 13 per cent called him an Independent — he does, after all, bestow gifts indiscriminately.

## Ghost pops up at Cambridge in time for Christmas

LONDON (AFP) — Cambridge University's oldest college, Peterhouse, has a ghost, but plans to exorcise it have come up against scepticism among the scientific teaching staff. The ghost is said to be that of Francis Dawes, who hanged himself at the college in 1789. The dean of Peterhouse has suggested an exorcism, but some tutors are sceptical of the ghost's existence and otherwise keep it because of the publicity benefits. Two previous exorcisms have been carried out in the college. In the 18th century a poltergeist was removed from a student's room and, more recently, a former dean carried out a ceremony because of the appearance of a dark presence in a corner of the college's old courtyard overlooking a graveyard.

## It's official — sex is good for your health

LONDON (AFP) — Men over the age of 45 who keep up their sexual prowess in bed live longer than their counterparts who become bed bums, new research carried out in Britain shows. According to a 10-year study of nearly 1,000 men between the ages of 45 and 59 living in Wales, having regular sex reduces the risk of mortality by around a half. Results of the study were published Friday in the British Medical Journal in which researchers propose a nationwide campaign to promote the benefits of an active sex life.

## Mouthwash drunk gets 2-year road ban

LONDON (AFP) — A drink caught by British police nearly three times over the drink limit because of his addiction to alcoholic mouthwash has been banned from driving for two years. British press reports said on Friday, Robert Jowle, 50, escaped a ban last year after he told magistrates he did not know that his mouthwash was alcoholic, but prosecutors successfully appealed against the decision. The former alcoholic, convicted of drink driving at a court in Staffordshire, central England, on Thursday, said he drank Listerine — which contains 26 per cent alcohol — because it gave him a "good feeling."

## Mao's grandson spent honeymoon in capitalist Hong Kong — report

HONG KONG (AFP) — Mao Xinyu, the grandson of communist China's founder Mao Zedong, spent his honeymoon in Hong Kong, Mao "secretly" came to the nation of capitalism early this month for his honeymoon and was seen dining at restaurants here, a columnist in the Oriental Daily News said. He met with several leading property tycoons here and discussed his property business in China.

## Gulf leaders under pressure to show their alliance works

By Diana Elias

KUWAIT (AP) — When the heads of state of six oil-rich Gulf countries meet Saturday, they will be under pressure to

show their 16-year alliance has achieved more than just setting up separate passport counters for their nationals at airports.

The Gulf Cooperation Council was founded in 1981

amid hopes that it would help unify the oil-rich countries of the Arabian peninsula, which share similar cultures, traditions and values.

But a joint military force is little more than a token army and there is the widespread belief in the region that the alliance, which groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and

Oman, has accomplished little. "The Gulf procession is going at the pace of a turtle in the age of satellites," Kuwait's former education minister, Ahmad Al Rubai, wrote in the Al Qabas newspaper. "Our people are worried about their future."

Osama Safar, 33, a public relations officer, said the "only tangible achievement I can see

is that they have allocated a separate passport counter for GCC nationals at the airports."

The alliance's secretary-general, Jamil Al Hojailan, defended its accomplishments, saying that the "council has achieved many things, but the problem with it is that many of these achievements are not visible."

He said that thanks to the GCC, Gulf nationals can now own property, do business and take bank loans in any member state.

Speaking at the end of a meeting of GCC foreign ministers — who drew up the agenda for Saturday's annual summit — Mr. Al Hojailan promised the heads of state would take decisions that would make "some of the wishes of GCC nationals come true."

He said the agenda included forcing employers to give priority to other GCC nationals when locals were not available, and giving GCC citizens a new

passport whose magnetic strip would make it unnecessary for them to fill in immigration forms.

Mr. Al Rubai would find this far from satisfactory and wants the GCC leaders to "cancel the word 'postpone' from their vocabulary when they sit around the table Saturday."

"We want specific programs and dates for gradual unification, beginning with economic issues and ending with political ones," he wrote in Al Qabas.

"Our peoples want the use of) passports cancelled and limits on movement of individuals and cargo removed. We want a modern train network that would connect the GCC states, carrying people and products from plants and farms."

Mr. Al Hojailan also said the summit agenda featured a proposal to set up a 30-member "citizen's advisory panel," that would advise Gulf leaders — none of whom were elected —

as to the concerns of their citizens.

The summit is also expected to tackle relations with the GCC's two big neighbours, Iran and Iraq.

Under the moderate government of President Mohammad Khatami, Iran has been warming to the Gulf nations, making better ties a foreign policy priority.

The GCC appears divided as to how to approach Iraq, although none of the members supported possible U.S. military action against Baghdad during Iraq's three-week standoff with U.N. arms inspectors that began in late October.

Bahrain, Oman and Qatar have diplomatic relations with Baghdad. The Emirates has low-level contacts with Iraq, but Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have boycotted Iraq since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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E.N.T. Consultant  
French Board

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